

## **Toxic Relationships**

By

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Biocidal: Confronting the Poisonous Legacy of PCBs  
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*The spotlight is on the narrator standing with the microphone at the corner of the stage, with the curtains down. The play begins.*

**NARRATOR**

Science has always been a driving force behind progress and innovation. From the discovery of fire to the invention of the wheel, humans have been using science to make their lives easier and better. However, as with any field of study, there have been good and bad transitions.

On one hand, great moments of scientific progress have transformed our world for the better. The development of vaccines and antibiotics, for example, has saved countless lives and prevented the spread of disease. But on the other hand, there have also been moments where scientific progress has been misused or has led to unintended consequences. The development of nuclear weapons, for example, has resulted in devastating consequences for humanity.

This stage play is the beginning of reiterations about important events that have made our current lifestyle, the events we ignored, and the changes we underwent with science and technology developments. Today, it is all about one of the forever chemicals, the Polychlorinated Biphenyls (PCBs). Allow us to transport you back to the 1920s; let us be reborn with the rebirth of PCBs.

## SCENE 1. Greed. At the Swann's office, Swann's Corporation

A large, industrial-era laboratory brimming with scientific equipment and buzzing with the energy of innovation. The walls are adorned with charts and diagrams. In the center, a massive wooden table is cluttered

with flasks, beakers, and papers, lit by the harsh glow of overhead electric lamps. The air is thick with anticipation.

Enter THEODORE SWANN, a dynamic thirty-three-year-old industrialist, with a confident stride. His young team of chemists, in various stages of work, look up, their faces a mix of curiosity and anxiety.

### NARRATOR

*(Voice filled with a gravitas suitable for the start of an inspiring story)*

In the heart of Anniston, Alabama, at the pioneering Swann's Corporation, a crucial meeting is about to begin. Here, amidst vials and formulas, the future is forged by those daring enough to dream.

### THEODORE

*(With a commanding presence)*

Guys, it is huge, get ready to mint millions!

*(The chemists exchange bewildered looks, the weight of Theodore's words hanging in the air.)*

It is a confirmed news from the executive team. They need the magic fluid to power the United States and we are going to be the number one supplier of it.

### HEAD CHEMIST

*(With a skeptical tone, stepping forward)*

Wait, do you mean that liquid which Eastman Kodak is selling?

### THEODORE

*(Pacing, his enthusiasm undimmed)*

Yes, the same one. He is some roadside guy calling himself a manufacturer. But that guy is clever enough to sell it for \$40 per pound. You are all going to mass produce it and we will be signing huge deals with the electric giants like General Electric.

### CHEMIST 2

But, Theodore, the manufacturing of that is a risky and an impossible one. I do not think this is good...

*(THEODORE cuts him off, his fury palpable as he slams*

*his hand on a nearby table, causing a small beaker to tip over.)*

**THEODORE**

*(Furious)* You said impossible? I don't care about the risks; I give you 60 days for 2 tank cars of the magic fluid.

60 days!

End of Discussion

*(Theodore Storms off out of his office leaving the chemists concerned)*

*Curtains down!*

**SCENE 2. Success. At the Swann's Corporation Laboratory**

*The curtain rises to reveal the Swann's Corporation laboratory in a state of quiet anticipation. The aftermath of THEODORE's departure hangs heavily in the air as the chemists enter, their faces etched with concern and curiosity. A central table, cluttered with vials, experimental setups, and scientific paraphernalia, stands ready for the day's trials.*

**JUNIOR CHEMIST**

I guess it is another day where he is drunk and throwing tantrums. So, can we get back to work?

**HEAD CHEMIST**

No, he is not kidding now. The information is true. Get ready for the struggle.

*(The HEAD CHEMIST's statement shifts the mood from doubt to determination. The chemists, now standing around a central table laden with vials and experimental setups, look to one another, a newfound resolve in their eyes.)*

**CHEMIST 2**

*(Anxiously wringing his hands)*

But how? we don't know how to produce it. Do we? The question is what proportions? At what temperature should we synthesize it?

**JUNIOR CHEMIST**

*(Excited)* So, do we know all the raw materials we need? Is the first step cleared?

*(Head Chemist and Chemist 2 lets out a huge sigh with frustration.)*

**NARRATOR**

Yes, they do not know what is needed for this magic fluid. This is a preposterous deadline. Days go on with sleepless nights, crashing down in the couches at the lab and trying various combinations of what all they knew about this magic fluid. They aren't happy even when Theodore is giving a lot of pep talks and has inflated their wages with pass-off chits.

*(to say in a low, husky voice)*

Those chits buy huge stocks and are profitable in the long term.

**HEAD CHEMIST**

*(Clutching a sheaf of notes, a glimmer of hope in his voice)*

We got some information from the early reports from the Germans that coal is the major raw material. Let's heat the coal vapor and instantly cool down to precipitate. Are we ready?

*(Chemists hold their hands and wait for the precipitated liquid from the cold vapor.)*

Yes! We made it!! We have got some pure products.

**CHEMIST 2**

*(Inspecting a piece of equipment, his hope dwindling)*

The heating element in the equipment is completely clogged. I doubt we can proceed further. Also, with this rate, we cannot even make 30% of what he asked for. We are all screwed. This guy can ruin my life and career. I am doomed!

**JUNIOR CHEMIST**

Can I suggest something?

*(Everybody looks at him curiously).*

Why not benzene?

**HEAD CHEMIST**

*(Furious)* Are you out of your mind? If we heat and cool benzene in those extreme temperatures, it is not only the end of us, but the explosion would kill us and destroy the lab.

**CHEMIST 2**

But do you have a better idea? We know for a fact; it can precipitate huge amounts. We will make it happen and it will save our lives.

*Silence fills the room until the head chemist agrees and they unitedly make the observation-area safe. They keep sandbags around and hide behind, ready to tackle the explosion.*

*It is time to perform the experiment. Clock ticking..*

*3....*

*2....*

*1....*

*Boooooommm!*

*The glass furnaces blast, the steel equipment crack, the pieces are injuring workers shattering everywhere. But, Eyes well up for all the chemists and the workers.*

**HEAD CHEMIST**

*(Overcome with emotion)*

We made it! Guys! We .....Made.....It.....!

**NARRATOR**

They synthesized the magic fluid by refining the methods further and Swann Corporation began the mass production of the so-called magic fluid containing the polychlorinated biphenyls!

As the chemists revel in their triumph, PCB materializes from the aftermath, its emergence signaling the birth of a new era fraught with unforeseen consequences.

**PCB**

*(Triumphant and grateful, a hint of mischief in its voice)*

I am back! Thank you all!

*(Emerges like a genie, happily from the explosion)*

*The stage dims on a note of cautious optimism, the chemists unaware of the ripple effects their breakthrough will unleash upon the world.*

### SCENE 3. Expansion. At the Swann's Corporation

The stage is set to resemble the aftermath of the groundbreaking experiment, transitioning from the laboratory to a more expansive view of Swann's Corporation's premises. The mood is a mix of celebration and underlying tension as the implications of their creation begin to unfold.

#### NARRATOR

*(With a tone that weaves a sense of foreboding into the narrative)*

As dawn breaks over Anniston, the Swann's Corporation stands at the brink of a new era. The success of their daring experiment promises untold riches and power. Yet, beneath the surface, a storm brews, one that could reshape the fabric of their world.

*Enter THEODORE, HEAD CHEMIST, and the team of chemists, their demeanor a blend of elation and exhaustion. Their recent triumph hangs heavily between them, a silent acknowledgment of the journey ahead.*

#### NARRATOR

Theodore signs up huge contracts through his genie, the PCBs. PCBs were happy in the association and loved to explore the world.

#### PCB

*(Emerging with a glow of naivete and wonder, addressing THEODORE)*

Hello Master! Thank you so much for bringing me into the world. So, what am I supposed to do?

#### THEODORE

*(With a magnanimous smile, placing a hand on PCB's shoulder)*

We are glad you are here now! From now on, you will be assisting me in most meetings and help me win a lot of contracts.

#### PCB

*(Tilting its head, intrigued)*

Contracts? What are those? How do I do it?

#### THEODORE

You know what? You are my asset, my happiness. I like to spread happiness. So, all these contracts will make you grow, and you will also spread happiness.

#### PCB

*(Excitedly)* That's awesome. So, when are we starting?

#### THEODORE

Today!



**NARRATOR**

PCB visited Theodore's five-story castles, his lavish offices and enjoyed unfathomable luxuries.

*As THEODORE and PCB converse, the backdrop shifts to reveal illustrious settings of power and luxury, symbolizing their expansive reach.*

**PCB**

Where are we now?

**THEODORE**

We are in General Electric. You will be helping these people from today... for..., see this document, this number of years (*Theodore shows the contract statements to PCB*).

**PCB**

So, what should I do here?

**THEODORE**

You see all these power plants? You will mix with those groups of people there and be their supporter. Go in now.

*(PCB goes into General Electric and meets other chemicals and elements like copper wires, steel equipment and other conducting materials. Hesitant, but feels good about meeting new people.)*

**NARRATOR**

Now comes the moment of introduction, a symphony of science and society. The PCB, with its demeanor of cool confidence, extends an olive branch to its new colleagues.

**PCB**

Hello Everybody, People call me "Mr. **P**retty **C**ool **B**ro." I understand how much heat you guys have to take up and the pressure that builds on you to deliver the electricity to our clients. I will be your supporter, the one who keeps you all in chill mode. Let's share electricity and spread happiness among people.

**NARRATOR**

The other elements and chemicals were happy to see a person with a cool dude attitude, a person of utmost fun, and a lavish master who gives everything that PCB needs. Though they were jealous, they were happy to have PCB around, so everybody gets a lot of attention together. Eventually PCBs went on serving the paint industries, partying with its friends, and spreading happiness.

*The stage dims, leaving the audience to ponder the paradox of progress—the dance of creation and consequence.*

**SCENE 4. The Rise and Fall. At Swann's Corporation.**

**NARRATOR**

*(Voice imbued with a somber tone, hinting at the upcoming downfall)*

By 1929, Theodore was one of the richest men in the United States, with his plants producing enormous amounts of concentrated phosphorus fertilizers on one side and PCBs creating revolutions in electric and paint industries.

*THEODORE appears center stage, basking in the glow of his success, while PCB hovers nearby, embodying the innocence of creation unaware of its consequences.*

**THEODORE**

Hey, I will be touring around Europe, and I am falling for that Heddingham castle in London.

**PCB**

Is that good? Can I also come and see that with you?

**THEODORE**

The regulations are pretty tight there. I don't want you to get caught anywhere.

**PCB**

That's awesome. Are we building a castle here too?

**THEODORE**

Yes! See you soon!

*The scene shifts subtly to convey the building of an extravagant but ultimately hollow replica of Heddingham Castle, symbolizing Theodore's obsession and eventual downfall.*

**NARRATOR**

Swann was entirely obsessed with building an exact replica of the Heddingham Castle, remaining buoyantly focused with loads of medieval English furnishings. But Swann did not realize he was building his death pit by himself.

**PCB**

*(Concern evident in its voice)*

Theodore, people are saying that a huge economic destruction is gonna happen. Will all our clients pay us?

**THEODORE**

*(With unwavering confidence)*

With you by my side, my friend, we will keep ruling the world. Get ready, we are hosting a huge success party celebrating you.

**PCB**

What???????? Thattttttt isssss awwweesssoommeeee!! Who all are we inviting to the party? Can I invite my friends too?

**THEODORE**

Sure. I am bringing in the University of Alabama Football team, our business associates and we are going to take the railroad trains to Pasadena.

**NARRATOR**

The nation was at the heart of depression, Swann's stock interests were decreasing, and the collateral loans were increasing. He couldn't pay the interest and ended up being bankrupt in 1933. Swann was not ready to give up, he brought two white knights - Edgar Queeny and Edward Mallinckrodt. (*They enter into the spotlight*)

**THEODORE**

Welcome, dear associates!

*(Shakes hand firmly).*

**PCB**

*(Mumbles softly to Theodore)*

Are you sure you want them here? I am not feeling great about these two.

**THEODORE**

We don't have a choice. Come on, you will be travelling internationally soon.

**PCB**

Yay!! Okay then.

**NARRATOR**

But those knights morphed into sharks. Edward reaped profits in short-term investments whereas Edgar went a step ahead of him. He took over Swann's Corporation pushing Swann out with a million-dollar buyout.

**EDGAR**

I am not sure if I made the right decision now, but this will be Monsanto Corporation from now. Of course, I am naming it after my beautiful mother.

**THEODORE**

This is not right! I brought you to help me, but you turned against me?

**EDGAR**

This is business, my friend, not a place for emotions.



and they were interacting with most of the water creatures, majorly fishes. The Fishes were glad to see a new friend and were consuming enough PCBs. Eventually Edgar named PCBs as Aroclor for marketing them.

*The stage dims, leaving the audience to ponder the intertwining fates of man, ambition, and the environment.*

**SCENE 5. Group and Destruct. At the Monsanto Corporation.**

*The stage is dark, save for a spotlight on a solemn conference table at Monsanto Corporation. The year is the late 1930s, and the atmosphere is charged with tension. EDGAR stands at the head of the table, his demeanor foreboding as PCB floats nearby, a symbol of innocence facing the precipice of a dark revelation.*

**NARRATOR**

*(Voice deep and foreboding)* End of 1930s. At the Monsanto Corporation, Edgar calls PCBs for an emergency meeting.

**EDGAR**

*(Furious)*What have you done?

**PCB**

What happened? Things are good right? Or are you also going away, and another idiot is going to take over?

**EDGAR**

*(Furiously)*I may not be the one going away. People might get rid of you.

**PCB**

*(Genuinely shocked)* What? I have been spreading happiness. People are happy to see colorful paints in their homes, and beautiful lights.

*(Gets lost in thought about colorful lamps and decorations). (Shakes head and comes back to normal).*

*(Concerned, the voice shaking)* Why would they get rid of me?

**EDGAR**

Oh! Then don't you know about those dying idiots and the curious ecologists?

**PCB**

Who is dying?

**EDGAR**

Our employees because you gave them Chloracne!

**PCB**

*(Shocked)* What?

**EDGAR**

Didn't you notice the large bursting blackheads, white cysts and pustules in the faces of our workers?

**PCB**

*(Sadly)* So, Theodore didn't make me good? After this happened in Germany, they stopped making me because I

am the cause. But I did not do anything to them.

**EDGAR**

I am not here to listen to your sob stories.

**PCB**

*(Fear creeping in)* But what will happen next? Will I die?

**EDGAR**

Don't worry I won't let you die. You will become immortal and will live even longer than every organism on earth.

*As EDGAR speaks, the stage light dims on the conference area and brightens on a laboratory scene where scientists are conducting tests on animals, the grim reality of their findings hanging in the air.*

**NARRATOR**

PCB became so enthusiastic, and Edgar went on thinking about how to save his business. In his bid to salvage the empire, Edgar pushed the bounds of ethics, subjecting animals to tests, and dismissing the growing alarm among his workforce. He ran tests on rabbits and installed basic ventilation and baths . He provided separate sets of clothing and cold creams for the workers each day. Despite precautions, tragedy struck, employees fell sick with similar symptoms and died due to acute yellow atrophy of the liver.

**PCB**

*(Panicking)* Edgar, Edgar, Edgar! Idiot, where are you?

**EDGAR**

What?

**PCB**

Two more of our chemists died.

**EDGAR**

What? How?

**PCB**

Their liver failed and doctors say it is because they were talking to me when I was too hot.

**EDGAR**

*(Mockingly, unrealizing)*

You? Hot?

*(He opens his eyes understanding what has happened.)*

**PCB**

Will they really get rid of me?

**NARRATOR**

In the meantime, one of the lead chemists came with the results of tested combinations of Aroclor. He also discovered that PCBs are going to rule the world.

*His face had mixed emotions with happiness on identified hazards, but he was lost in thought about the consequences. He hands the invention to Edgar.*

*The scene shifts slightly to introduce a diverse array of PCB family members, symbolizing the proliferation of PCBs despite the emerging crisis.*

**EDGAR**

Darling, ready to meet your family?

**PCB**

*(PCB Confused, excited and afraid - multiple emotions barging in) Wait, I have a family?*

**EDGAR**

Meet your brothers - Aroclor 1236, Aroclor 1242, Aroclor 1248, Aroclor 1252, 54, 62 and that's 69.

*As PCB meets its 'family', a visual representation of the diverse Aroclor series fills the backdrop, a poignant reminder of the widespread impact.*

**PCB**

*(With tears in his eyes)*

Edgar, you are the best. Thank you!

**NARRATOR**

Edgar was ignoring the voices from the Massachusetts Division of Occupational Hygiene. Strong warning letters to label PCBs toxic were lying in the trash. Conference summits and accusations were shut down by Edgar's favorite physician Dr. Kelly.

Dr. Kelly asserted that there were no systemic reactions observed and that human experiments had not confirmed the toxicity of PCBs. Another irony was that the state was ethically inclined not to use their workers as guinea pigs. PCB survived. However, joining forces with his family, and with Edgar and Dr. Kelly by its side, PCB was turning inhuman.

All those accusations were making PCB develop a hatred for other organisms, especially humans.

*The stage darkens, leaving the audience to ponder the moral complexities of industrial progress and the inescapable consequences of human ambition.*



**SCENE 6. Evil. At the Monsanto Corporation.**

*The stage is shrouded in dim, ominous lighting, evoking the stealthy spread of PCBs across the globe. EDGAR stands at the forefront, a man caught between profit and consequence, with PCB by his side, embodying the duality of scientific progress and environmental peril.*

**NARRATOR**

It was not just the weapons that caused mass destruction of humans in the early 1940s. It was the handiwork of our PCB family. However, this mafia was working invisibly, poisoning hundreds without any evidence. Though Edgar and Dr. Kelly understood the adverse effects of PCBs, Edgar was too money-minded to accept the issue.

*EDGAR, with a veneer of corporate composure, contemplates new ventures, oblivious to the storm brewing on the horizon.*

**EDGAR**

We have received inquiries from Dow Chemicals for Saran Wrap. Admiral Rickover is asking questions about hydraulics for use in the United States Navy.

**PCB**

*(With a tone of defiance)* So, how do you think I will help them? I am done being good, helping people. Don't take any new orders.

**EDGAR**

*(Smirking)* Who asked you to do good?

**PCB**

Edgar, now don't manipulate me. I am not helping useless humans.

**EDGAR**

Then what is your plan about being immortal?

**PCB**

Me and My family have already poisoned hundreds, is that not enough?

**EDGAR**

So, what if that hundred die?

**PCB**

*(Irritated)* What should I do now?

**EDGAR**

You, dumb chemical! Think about the possible things that would happen when you enter the households, you could destroy the defense system of most countries.

**PCB**

*(Speaks thoughtfully)* People would wrap me around their food and I will poison more people. Even the kids, the pregnant women, so the next generation will also have me. I can easily travel the world with these defense people.

Edgar! You are a genius.

**EDGAR**

But there's a check. These people want a test report of your toxicity.

**PCB**

I myself know I am toxic enough to destroy the world. What do you want to test now?

**EDGAR**

Admiral Rickover has ordered inhalation tests, skin tests on rabbits to evaluate the toxicity.

**PCB**

*(Commandingly)* Let's get this over with. Plan for the data manipulations. Make Dr. Kelly ready to defend me.

*As they conspire, the backdrop shifts to a world map, pinpointing the relentless march of PCBs across continents.*

**NARRATOR**

The results made Admiral Rickover and Dow Chemical reject PCBs for their products, which eventually lead to cautionary labelling on all products made with PCBs. Things became worse for the Monsanto Corporation and PCB production, though PCBs were travelling across the world to poison people through various exposure routes.

**PCB**

Family! Ready to fly across the world?

**OTHER AROCLORS**

Yay!! Sure!!

**PCB**

Hey! You two, take the next flight to Europe. You two wanted to travel in the ship, right? I will talk to Edgar, take the cruise!

*(The Aroclors became so happy and started spreading out. However, the decline in production was crunching Edgar and his associates.)*

*The stage fades to black, leaving a lingering question in the air: What is the true cost of progress?*

**SCENE 7. Awaken. Swedish government testing facility.**

*The stage is transformed into a global map, with interconnected nodes lighting up to represent the pervasive spread of PCBs. Amidst this network, a single spotlight focuses on JENSEN, a scientist determined to unveil the truth, contrasting sharply with the ethereal presence of PCB, which hovers ominously over the map.*

**NARRATOR**

PCBs were travelling across the world. Another chemical called DDT (Dichlorodiphenyltrichloroethane), an insecticide, was taunting most continents. The Swedish government ordered Jensen, to test the countryside for DDT poisoning. But what he landed up was the PCBs. Not one or two but most of the Aroclors invented were found.

*JENSEN steps forward, armed with data and a resolve to challenge the unseen enemy.*

**PCB**

*(Boasting with a chilling glee)* Dear all, we are here, there and everywhere you see.

**JENSEN**

*(To his colleagues)* Yes, you are right. I could see PCBs in all the animal samples, the soil, river and air samples. Not just that! These bastards are there in my hair too!

**PCB**

This is just the beginning of the destruction of Mankind!

**JENSEN**

Oh, you don't get it, do you? We humans strive to save the world. We will safeguard our people. You are just another destructive chemical.

**PCB**

*(Mockingly)* Wait, What? I am not just another chemical, I have been recently claimed to be Mr. Forever, an immortal chemical. You are just one of those scientists in a million of them working against me. But you know what, I have entered your home, I have reached your body, your family, your community, your nation is in my control now.

**JENSEN**

*(With a frustrated sigh)* But *(with a pause)*, what are your plans?

**PCB**

Since you found new relatives of mine, let me share some secrets with you.

We will first enter your body maybe while you smell, while you eat, while you drink or touch anything, we are in. Then we will get into your blood and start eating your liver. *(mockingly)* We are also poor little things and we need food too.

*The stage lights dim, focusing on JENSEN as he delves into the depths of his research, the backdrop shifting to depict scenes of suffering and ecological damage.*

**NARRATOR**

Jensen could not stop thinking about what the PCBs just said. He is shocked and gets the realization about the recent disease outbreaks in various parts of the world. Patients were reporting symptoms of large blackhead ruptures, acnes, and boils on their faces, but were not able to figure out the reason for the disease.

**JENSEN**

*(Shivering, Jensen asked PCBs)* So, the cause of Yusho disease, Fetal PCB Syndrome, Yu-Cheng disease was all you?

**PCB**

*(A Wild laugh)* Definitely yes!

*(Jensen is terrified but determined to take these PCBs down)*

**NARRATOR**

Doctors were treating victims in Japan, Taiwan, China, and several parts of Europe. The only common food in all of them was Cooking oil. All the usual chemical tests turn negative. But Jensen realizes that it was contamination of PCBs and its family. Heating Aroclors have already reported fatalities in animals.

**JENSEN**

What is making you this bad?

**PCB**

The ungrateful nature of humans.

**JENSEN**

We will get rid of you!

**PCB**

Yeah, right! Didn't you hear about the research in the Industrial Bio- test Laboratories?

**JENSEN**

Yes, Dr. Calandra's huge project on Magic fluid.

**PCB**

Edgar is trying his best to show I am good to you all. But you know what? I am not bad! Just EVIL. Now even if they do all sorts of research, they are going to find more and more problems caused by us, not a solution

**JENSEN**

But we are knowledgeable, not as dumb as you.

**PCB**

*(Furious)* Am I dumb or is it you humans? You are afraid because of few diseases and few symptoms. But your greed for comfort, for growth, for money will keep us alive. More than anything, your ignorance will be our fuel.

*As the confrontation reaches its climax, the stage expands to show a world grappling with the consequences of its own creations, a battle between innovation and preservation.*

**NARRATOR**

Jensen is awestruck with the news that Dr. Calandra's research reported PCB as slightly carcinogenic. However, he understood if Monsanto corp. say it is mildly carcinogenic, then it is wildly carcinogenic.

*The stage fades to black, leaving the audience to ponder the delicate balance between progress and the preservation of life on Earth.*

## SCENE 8. The Ban. At the Swain's Laboratory

*The stage is set to mimic a scientific command center, bustling with activity and urgency. A large screen displays a map of Lake Superior, highlighting its vast expanse. DR. SWAIN stands at the forefront, directing a team of researchers and scientists, their faces etched with concern and determination.*

### NARRATOR

Jensen's efforts raise suspicion on the Industrial Bio-Test (IBT) laboratories and Food and Drug Administration (FDA) investigates the issues with greater detail. Shocking results shake the world. 80% of the animals exposed to PCBs died due to exposure, cannibalism, and drowning. They ordered the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) to initialize a series of experiments on various sources. Insecticides, herbicides, medicines, cosmetics, bleaches, food colorants and what not. PCBs were everywhere. Scientists became so puzzled. Dr. Swain from the EPA began research.

*The stage transitions to depict a serene Lake Superior, its tranquility belying the poison lurking within.*

### SWAIN

Hello team, get the minesweeper ready! We are going to excavate Lake Superior.

*As the narrative unfolds, the audience is taken on a visual journey beneath the waters of Lake Superior, the beauty of the lake contrasting starkly with the looming threat of contamination.*

### NARRATOR

Lake Superior was the most unspoiled freshwater lake. However!

### SWAIN

*(In disbelief)* What? Fish in the middle of the lake, deep waters, and near the surface all have PCBs. My goodness, this is a 3,500-mile shoreline. This entire shoreline is contaminated with PCBs!

*(He is shocked and lost in thought.)*

*The spotlight focuses on a narrow lake.*

### NARRATOR

Swain's group finds a freshwater lake within Lake Superior with the most pristine rainwater. They believed it could be uninfected fishes and collected them to compare with the infected samples.

*The backdrop transitions to the Swain's laboratory and the team of researchers evaluating the data from the electron detector.*

**SWAIN**

*(Frustrated)* How on earth is this possible? Check if the electron detector is the fault! Don't you guys have sense? How will those pristine samples have this huge contamination?

*The revelation of contamination even in the most protected environments underscores the pervasive nature of PCBs.*

**NARRATOR**

To the shock of all the scientists, those samples taken from the small lake had twice the number of PCBs than Lake Superior. They called for an emergency meeting to ban PCB production everywhere. By 1979, PCBs were banned from production, but Monsanto allegedly produced high amounts of PCBs and released it to the environment.

**SWAIN**

*(Months later at a national conference)* We have banned PCBs now; it is high time to get rid of them! We need support from all of you and we should immediately start informing the public and perform high end research to remove them from the environment.

**NARRATOR**

Huge efforts began by cleaning up the Hudson River, the first contamination by General Electric. Is this the beginning of the end for PCBs?

*In a defiant crescendo, PCB asserts its indelible presence, a chilling reminder of the challenges that lie ahead.*

**PCB**

*(Laughing maniacally)* That is never possible! We are here, there and everywhere!!! We are forever chemicals, get used to having us around! ahahahh.....

*The stage darkens, leaving the audience to ponder the intricate dance between human innovation and its environmental impact, a narrative that continues to unfold.*

**NARRATOR**

Thank you so much for your patience. This is just the beginning. We are progressing in the battle against the PCBs. However, we need efforts from you all. Be aware, be responsible.

Thank you!