

## My Water is Too Hot

"Mom!" I shouted out from the kitchen. I listened for her footsteps that signaled her approach. When she walked in she saw me holding out my glass of water with a look of disgust on my face. "First I had to take a shower in stinky water and now I come in here to drink this."

"What are you going on about, Cass?" my mom asked. I hand her the glass of water and gesture for her to try it. She put the glass to her lips and took a slow sip. Suddenly she spit out a spray of water follow by a loud, "Yuck!"

"SEE?" I shouted, "I *told* you it was foul!" My mom looked at the glass and frowned. "It's been like this for weeks, mom. I don't know how you haven't noticed yet!" From the living room I heard my voice call out, "Hey girls, you should come and see this."

Mom and I walked into the living room and saw dad sitting in front of the TV. Bright red words scrolled across the screen reading - NEWS FLASH - Large amount of West Virginia's groundwater contaminated with natural gas. Nearby natural gas production plant believed to be at fault. Dad stood up and shook his head, "This might be what has been going on with our water. There's only one way to find out."

I followed my dad into the kitchen while mom watched the news for more information. He reached into the back pocket of his jeans and fished out a lighter. As he got close to the sink he raised his hand, "Stand back, Cass. I don't want you to get hurt." I stood back and held my breath. He carefully lit the lighter and set it close to the faucet. He used his other hand to turn on the cold water. What happened next was one of the coolest, yet terrifying things I have ever seen. The water dribbled out of the faucet, then promptly burst into flame.