

**MICHAEL BAZZETT**

**The Differences**

Afterward, the most noteworthy change was children born with polyhedral eyes. This gave many pause. As always, authorities claimed it was correlative not causal but the willingness to assume risk was sharply diminished.

With all anomalies there is a desire for elimination. For instance, the landowner who dispatched a rodent using the rim of a metal bucket. Don't let the softly angled voice dissuade you. The speaker himself has killed in this manner.

With children, we know the ancillary symptoms persisted. The smell of certain cheeses caused distress. Also, coarse hair grew on finger-backs to the second knuckle. This became a primary mode of identification: a commonplace

on market days to see women flipping over young hands like pale crabs, for inspection. *There! What did I tell you?* Voices triumphant but wrapped in the grimy foil of fear. Once accommodations were made such public acts grew rare.

Now it is only the uninitiated, the moronic, and ironically the hopelessly young who need schooling in the new decorum. So which of these are you, that you persist with your questions?