

FADE IN:

TITLE ON SCREEN:"It is very hard to explain to people who have never known serious depression or anxiety the sheer continuous intensity of it. There is no off switch. I was overwhelmed by something I did not understand- My own brain."- Matt Haig, Author of Reasons to Stay Alive, 2015.

DREAM BEGINS

INT. FARA'S DREAM THEATER- DAY

FARA sees silhouettes of her family clapping in the audience.

INT. FARA'S DREAM THEATER STAGE- DAY

The room spins and Fara's vision fades to black. Fara opens her eyes.

DREAM ENDS.

INT. APARTMENT ROOM- MORNING

Fara wakes up, her face has sweat drops and her eyes are barely open. She takes a deep breath. The room is dark, a desk in the corner of the room is filled with flowers, and a planner lies on top. The walls are covered with pictures of Fara. The alarm clock beeps. ANGLE ON: Clock reads 5:10 AM.

Fara moves her feet and legs restlessly. She pushes herself up and sits on the bed. Her breathing increases.

FARA
(Whispering to herself)
It's okay, is going to be okay.

Fara breathes in and out, then lays back down in bed. She places her hands on her abdomen. ANGLE ON: Clock reads 5:20 AM. Fara closes her eyes.

FARA (CONT'D)
(Whispering to herself)
Okay, okay...

Fara opens her eyes. ANGLE ON: Clock reads 5:23 AM. Fara positions herself in a fetal position.

INT. APARTMENT BATHROOM- MORNING

Fara opens the medicine cabinet and grabs a Pepto Bismol.

She drinks it from the bottle, closes it and puts it back on the medicine cabinet. Fara places her hands on the sink and throws up. Fara opens the faucet and gargles water. She sees herself in the mirror and touches her dark eye circles.

FARA
 (Whispering to herself)
 What is going on with you?

Fara washes her face with cold water.

INT. APARTMENT BEDROOM- MORNING

ANGLE ON: Calendar. Today's day reads Business Management HW due. Fara comes in and looks at the clock. ANGLE ON: Clock reads 6:30 AM. Fara opens her laptop. ANGLE ON: Computer. A pop quiz pops up.

FARA
 (Whispering to herself)
 Okay.

Fara stares the computer and taps the desk intensely.

FARA (CONT'D)
 (Reading the question)
 Describe 6 Small Business
 Administration loans, Describe...,
 Come on Fara, What the heck? Just
 think... what the heck stupid
 head, it's just a stupid
 question...

Fara scratches her head. She looks frustrated.

FARA (CONT'D)
 Come on, come on!

Fara's face is pale. ANGLE ON: Computer. Fara opens her email. Fara types: "Professor, I had not been feeling well the last couple days making it hard for me to work on the project, I honestly do not know if I'll be able to finish the semester or have to drop out eventually. I am informing you I will not be able to make it to class today. I apologize for the inconvenience this may cause." Fara clicks enter and close the laptop.

INT. APARTMENT BATHROOM- MORNING

The hot tub water runs. Fara grabs a bubble bath from the shelf. She throws the bubble bath inside the tub and takes her clothes off.

Fara sits down on the tub, grabs her stomach, closes her eyes, takes a deep breath and goes underneath the water. The noise is muffled and bubbles build up. Fara does not come up. TOMMY, Fara's boyfriend's voice is muffled underneath the water.

TOMMY'S VOICE

I'm home!

Fara comes out gasping. Tears streaming down her cheeks.

From Fara's viewpoint, the water stops running and the bathroom is dark. Fara's trembles, she stands up, grabs a towel and wraps it around herself. She moves the light switch on, and the light turns off.

FARA

You gotta be kidding me.

Fara opens the door to the bedroom.

INT. APARTMENT BEDROOM- MORNING

Fara goes to the window and opens the blinds. The sun hits her eyes. From Fara's viewpoint, her vision gets blurred, and there is a loud ringing noise.

FARA

GOD!

Fara quickly closes her blinds. She stumbles with the nightstand onto the bed. From Fara's viewpoint, the room is dark. The clock reads 8:00 AM. Tommy comes in.

TOMMY

I heard a noise, you okay?

Tommy sees Fara laying down in bed. Tommy rushes next to her.

TOMMY (CONT'D)

You don't look good, what happened?

FARA

I don't know... my stomach hurts.
I took a shower, the power went out. I tried opening the blinds but the light is too bright it hurts my

FARA (CONT'D)

head...

TOMMY

What are you talking about? The lights are on.

Fara slowly opens her eyes. Her face has sweat drops and looks pale.

FARA

The lights are off.

Tommy helps Fara sit up on the bed.

TOMMY

Okay, I will take you to the doctor, let me call the student health center.

FARA

No, no, it's okay, I just need to rest.

TOMMY

You really don't look good Fara, it worries me.

FARA

I'm okay, trust me, I took some medicine, let me rest.

TOMMY

I'm calling the Health Center anyway.

Tommy grabs his phone and dials the student health center.

Fara tries to take away the phone but Tommy moves away from the bed.

TOMMY (CONT'D)

Yes, hello, I am calling to see if you guys are available for walk-ins?, Okay perfect, we will be on our way!

Tommy hangs up.

TOMMY (CONT'D)

Okay, let's get you to the doctor, come on.

FARA

I don't wanna go.

TOMMY

I know you don't wanna go but we
need to make sure you are okay.

Tommy goes into the closet and comes out with Fara's
clothes. He dresses Fara.

INT. STUDENT HEALTH CENTER LOUNGE- MORNING

Tommy and Fara arrive at the Student Health Center. Fara
checks in for an appointment at a computer station.

NURSE

Fara Morris?

TOMMY

She is over here!

The nurse approaches the computer station. She gives Fara a
Depression and Anxiety intake form.

NURSE

I will need you to fill this form
thoroughly, this form is required
to be taken by every patient
before the appointment. Once you
complete it, hand it to me and I
will take you to the doctor's
office.

FARA

Thank you.

Fara begins to fill out the form.

TOMMY

(Rubbing her back)
It's going to be okay baby.

Tommy kisses Fara on the forehead.

INT. STUDENT HEALTH CENTER DOCTOR'S OFFICE- MORNING

Fara sits on the doctor's office bed. The doctor comes in.

DOCTOR

(shaking Fara's hand)
Good morning Fara, My name is
Dr. Robinson.

Fara kindly shakes his hand.

DOCTOR (CONT'D)
(smiling)
How'd we doing today?, What's
going on?

FARA
(Touching the area where
it hurts)
I woke up this morning with an
unusual stomach pain, in this area
then when I tried opening the
blinds in my room, the light from
the sun gave me a headache, it
actually felt more like a
migraine.... I am scared, I don't
know if I was delusional or what!
But, I thought the power went out
in the apartment when it
didn't....I have not been feeling
good the last couple of days but I
thought it would just go away.

DOCTOR
Let's see, can you lay down on the
bed for me?

Fara slowly lays down on the doctor's office bed. The doctor
puts on gloves.

DOCTOR (CONT'D)
Now, I'll begin some stomach
palpitations and percussions,
essentially I'll be pressing the
area, is that okay? Let me know if
anything hurts.

Fara nods her head. The doctor puts his hands on different
areas of her stomach.

FARA
Nothing hurts.

DOCTOR
Alright, let's sit up.

Fara sits up on the bed.

DOCTOR (CONT'D)
So, it is not physical pain, when
was the last time you ate?

FARA
That would be yesterday, I did not
eat dinner or breakfast, I had not
(MORE)

FARA (CONT'D)
been hungry, I had been nauseous,
constipated...

DOCTOR
Is there any chance you might be
pregnant?

FARA
GOD! No!... not yet anyway...

DOCTOR
Is always good to ask to eliminate
possibilities. How do you sleep?

FARA
Not good I suppose, I have trouble
falling asleep... like insomnia.

DOCTOR
Have you experienced
hallucinations before?

FARA
No, never...

DOCTOR
How about your migraine... have
you experienced migraines before?

FARA
Yes, I have, my mom has them so, I
have them too. I don't know how it
works but I've pretty much lived
with them my whole life... it's
just I've never had them because
of the sunlight before, it just
doesn't feel right.

DOCTOR
Have you been prescribed
medication?

FARA
No, I usually just have Ibuprofen
whenever I get them.

DOCTOR
How about your tiredness? Are you
feeling more tired than usual?

FARA
Yes, very much and my whole body
hurts, sometimes I can't stop
moving my legs cause my joints
(MORE)

FARA (CONT'D)

hurt.

DOCTOR

Have you been having trouble getting out of bed in the mornings?

FARA

Not at first, it just lately, it has become very difficult.

DOCTOR

Okay, Fara, let me bring in your results from the intake form, okay? The evaluation will help us identify the problem better, I'll be right back.

FARA

Okay.

The doctor leaves the room. Fara moves her hands restlessly.

The doctor comes back carrying a folder.

DOCTOR

By looking at your intake form results, and listening to the majority of your symptoms including the stomach pain, insomnia, tiredness, and migraine, we can deliver a diagnosis.

The Doctor pauses for a moment. Fara looks at him attentively.

DOCTOR (CONT'D)

College can be overwhelming. There is stress, homesickness, sadness and more. Sometimes these emotions trigger chemical reactions in the body, causing inflammation, physical pain, and even a weaker immune system. By looking at your results, I can tell you are experiencing symptoms of depression. It is looking like clinical depression.

Fara stares at the doctor. From Fara's viewpoint, no sound comes out of the doctor's mouth as he continues to talk.

After a while, sound comes back.

DOCTOR (CONT'D)

Just like anything else, there are medications for Clinical Depression. We can begin with low doses of SSRIs. This stands for, Selective serotonin re-uptake inhibitors. This will target the level of serotonin in your brain and lower the depression symptoms. I would also encourage you to go to the Counseling Center on campus...

The doctor grabs a brochure from his desk and hands it to Fara.

DOCTOR (CONT'D)

Depression can be treated. We will make sure you are back to feeling better. But, if at any moment you are feeling suicidal, please contact 911 or the hotline in the brochure. Okay?

Fara nods her head.

DOCTOR (CONT'D)

I will have the nurse schedule an appointment for you in two weeks, but if you need to see me sooner, you call the student health center, okay?

FARA

Okay, Thank You.

DOCTOR

Any questions?

Fara shakes her head. The doctor smiles and exits the room.

The nurse hands an appointment card to Fara.

NURSE

You are all set!

FARA

Thank you.

Fara grabs the card and heads out the door.

INT. STUDENT HEALTH CENTER LOUNGE-MORNING

Fara comes out in silence. From Fara's point of view, everything is gray, and the sound is muffled. Tommy approaches Fara and holds her hand.

TOMMY
Hey, What did the doctor say?

Fara stares at Tommy.

TOMMY (CONT'D)
How are you doing?

FARA
Ah, nothing, it's just a stomach
ache, I need some medicine.

INT. APARTMENT KITCHEN- MORNING

Fara and Tommy come in.

TOMMY
Can you eat anything? I'll make
you something healthy and soft for
your tummy.

FARA
Okay.

Fara heads to the bathroom. Tommy sings as he makes breakfast.

INT. APARTMENT BATHROOM- MORNING

Fara takes the medication out of her purse. She grabs her phone and google the medication. She puts the phone away, takes the pills out of the container and stares at them.

Fara takes a deep breath and puts the pills in her mouth.

After a moment, Fara spits out the pills and puts the medication back in her purse.

INT. APARTMENT KITCHEN- MORNING

Fara sits on the kitchen table. Tommy puts two white eggs with a toast and a cup of tea in front of Fara.

TOMMY
Tada! Here ya go!

FARA

Thanks.

They both sit at the table.

TOMMY

So, the other day I was out with Ben to go get a present for his mom and we found this game store across the street. I am so surprised I had not seen it before, so we went there and like everything was 50% off! So as you would not guess what I bought....

From Fara's viewpoint, Tommy's mouth moves yet the sound is muffled. Everything around Tommy looks colorless. Fara grabs the fork and takes little bites of the egg to her mouth. She sips on the tea and puts it down. Tommy notices Fara is not eating.

EXT. UNIVERSITY- AFTERNOON

Tommy and Fara walk through the building as a crowd of students comes down the bus laughing. Fara looks at them.

TOMMY (CONT'D)

You will be okay, I love you.

FARA

Thanks, I love you too.

Tommy and Fara walk inside the building.

INT. UNIVERSITY CLASSROOM- AFTERNOON

The professor writes an algebra equation on the board. Fara looks at the board. From her viewpoint the numbers are blurry. Fara tries to write the equation in her notebook but her hands are shaky.

TOMMY

Are you okay?

FARA

Yeah, I'm just tired.

From Fara's viewpoint, the classroom spins. Her face looks pale. Fara runs out the door. Tommy follows her. All the students look at each other and talk. The professor silence the room.

INT. UNIVERSITY BATHROOM- AFTERNOON

Fara throws up on the bathroom toilet. Her hands and face rest on the toilet top and she cannot move.

INT. UNIVERSITY-OUTSIDE BATHROOM- AFTERNOON

Tommy is outside the ladies bathroom.

TOMMY

Fara! What's wrong!? Answer me,
please!

Fara yells from the inside of the ladies bathroom.

INT. UNIVERSITY BATHROOM- AFTERNOON

FARA

(crying hysterically)
I don't know!, I don't know!

Fara grabs the toilet paper and cleans her face. Her breathing increases. Fara begins hyperventilating.

FARA (CONT'D)

Breathe, breathe, breathe...

Fara screams.

FARA (CONT'D)

(Hyperventilating)
TOMMY! GET ME OUT! GET ME OUT!
PLEASE!

Tommy opens the bathroom door and sees Fara hyperventilating. He holds Fara in his chest.

TOMMY

It's okay, breath with me...

Fara stops breathing. Tommy dials 911.

TOMMY (CONT'D)

(desperate)
Hello, I got an emergency at the
university, 130 McAllen. Please
get here, my girlfriend is not
breathing. She is not breathing!!!
Please! She was hyperventilating,
she can't move!...

Fara coughs struggling to breathe.

TOMMY (CONT'D)

She just coughs! she is breathing!
we are inside a bathroom, Okay,
okay, yes I will get her outside,
I am getting her out now, stay
with me... please, stay with me,
please...

EXT. UNIVERSITY- EVENING

Tommy runs through the crowd as he carries Fara in his arms.

TOMMY

MOVE, MOVE!

INT. UNIVERSITY PARKING LOT- EVENING

Tommy lays Fara down on the concrete. The paramedics approach them and begin CPR on Fara. Fara is not responding.

PARAMEDIC

One thousand, two one thousand,
three... She has a pulse!
Beginning CPR!

Tommy cries as he watches the paramedics perform CPR on Fara.

PARAMEDIC (CONT'D)

20, 21, 22, 23, 24, 25, 26, 27,
28, 29, 30.

The paramedic gives two breathes onto Fara's mouth. Fara coughs and breathes. The paramedics, check Fara's blood pressure and stabilize her. From Fara's viewpoint sound is muffled and faces are blurry.

PARAMEDIC (CONT'D)

(tapping Fara's shoulder)

Fara, stay with me! stay with me!
how old are you? When was the last
time you ate?, Are you allergic to
any medication?, What happened?,
Are you currently on meds?....

Fara's face is pale and her breathing becomes labored.

TOMMY

She received a stomach pain
medicine from the Student Health
center earlier, she had been
having stomach pain and migraines!

PARAMEDIC
Where is the medication?

TOMMY
It might be in her purse at home,
I'll go get it!

PARAMEDIC
Meet us at Lady Bird Hospital!

Tommy runs through the parking lot. The paramedics put Fara on a stretcher and into the ambulance.

INT. AMBULANCE- EVENING

Fara's body is paralyzed; Fara tries to speak but nothing comes out. She closes her eyes. The paramedic taps Fara in the chest.

PARAMEDIC
Fara, stay with me, open your
eyes...

INT. HOSPITAL- EVENING

The paramedics move Fara quickly through the hospital.

INT. HOSPITAL ROOM- EVENING

The paramedics bring Fara down the stretcher onto the hospital bed. The nurse connects Fara onto an IV. The monitor screen is beeping next to her bed.

NURSE
The doctor is on his way!

Fara slowly opens her eyes. She moves her fingers, toes, arms, and neck. She breathes normally. The doctor comes in.

DOCTOR
Hello Fara, I'm Doctor Jaimez, how
are we feeling?

FARA
(weak voice)
I'm okay.

DOCTOR
What happened?

FARA
To be honest, I don't know, I felt
dizzy, my stomach was hurting, I

FARA (CONT'D)
threw up, then I couldn't
breathe.....

Fara pauses for a moment. The doctor looks concerned.

DOCTOR
Do you know what might have caused
you to throw up? Or
Hyperventilate?

Fara shakes her head, looks at the doctor and cries.

FARA
(crying)
Doctor, what happened to me?

DOCTOR
It looks like you might have had a
reaction to something....Have you
taken any medication?

FARA
No, I did not take anything.

The nurse comes in and hands a folder to the Doctor. The
doctor looks at the document and stares up at Fara.

DOCTOR
Fara, it looks like you have
prescribed an Antidepressant... Do
you have a history of anxiety or
depression?

FARA
I don't know what you are talking
about...

DOCTOR
The medication could have caused
some symptoms.... yet, we did not
find any signs that you took it.
Fara, your symptoms were triggered
by something else.

Fara stares at the doctor for a moment.

FARA
Why did I hyperventilate? Why do I
feel sad? Why is everything
muffled at times? ,Why do I feel
(MORE)

FARA (CONT'D)
 pain?...real pain?

DOCTOR
 By the look of your analysis, your body is healthy yet we cannot disregard the fact that what you experienced was real. Depression is a real condition. It can cause physical symptoms like the ones from today and anxiety can cause you to experience these type of panic attacks. Sometimes people experience depression and Anxiety...

FARA
 (crying hysterically)
 But why doctor? Why me? why now?

DOCTOR
 A lot of people get diagnosed with depression every year. It can be genetics, situational and sometimes we don't know the cause, but you are not alone. You won't walk in this process alone.

FARA
 I am just so scared, I am scared to tell people, I am scared to live like this, I am scared for what is going to happen now... How do I tell my parents!?, How do I tell my boyfriend!?

DOCTOR
 You can start by building a support system from the people close to you, and just be honest with them. All you gotta do is say that depression is like any other illness. It is treatable. You are seeking help Fara, that is the first step in getting better.

The doctor hands Fara a tissue. She cleans her tears and breathes deeply.

FARA
 What options do I have?

DOCTOR
 There are plenty, let me get you the information and we can get
 (MORE)

DOCTOR (CONT'D)
started with all the treatments
available...

FARA
(interrupting)
Doctor, I don't have insurance...
I don't know how I am going to pay
for this.

DOCTOR
There was a man who came in before
I got here and paid under your
name.

Fara looks astonished.

FARA
(smiling)
Is he here somewhere?

DOCTOR
I believe so, he came in as soon
as we got here, he claims to be
with you, I thought you knew...

FARA
Tommy, my boyfriend, he might be
here somewhere...

DOCTOR
I'll let the nurse know to bring
him in, then we can review your
treatment options.

The doctor exits the room.

INT. HOSPITAL WAITING ROOM - EVENING

The nurse approaches Tommy.

NURSE
Hello young man, are you with
Fara?

NURSE (CONT'D)
How is she? Will she be okay?

NURSE (CONT'D)
(smiling)
She will be.

The nurse takes Tommy to the Fara's Hospital Room.

INT. HOSPITAL ROOM- EVENING

Tommy rushes to give Fara a kiss. Fara kisses Tommy and they both cry as they hold one another. Tommy sits next to Fara.

FARA

Tommy, you didn't have to.

TOMMY

What? I had to make sure you were okay! ,how are you feeling?

FARA

Thank you so much. There are no words to thank you. How did you know?

TOMMY

(voice breaking)

I came into the bathroom and you were not breathing. I had to call 911...

FARA

(interrupting)

Wait. How did you know I don't have insurance?

TOMMY

I did not. But, we will make arrangements. Don't worry baby. There must be something we can do to pay.

Fara looks confused. She pauses for a moment, then looks up.

FARA

(whispering)

Thank you, God

TOMMY

I'll figure something out

FARA

(smiling)

It's okay. Everything is going to be okay.

Fara and Tommy hold each other tightly.

FARA (CONT'D)

Tommy, there is something I need to be honest with you about.

TOMMY
(rambling)
Are you pregnant?, Cause if you
are, I'm totally going to be by
your side.

FARA
(interrupting)
No, No, No, but thanks...

Tommy and Fara laugh. Fara grabs Tommy's hands and looks him
in the eye.

FARA (CONT'D)
Tommy, I know I'll be alright... I
was diagnosed with a condition
call Clinical Depression...

FADE TO BLACK.

FADE IN:

TITLE ON SCREEN: "DEPRESSION AFFECTS OVER 18 MILLION PEOPLE
IN THE U.S. AND MORE THAN 300 MILLION PEOPLE WORLDWIDE.
REGARDLESS OF AGE, GENDER, RACE, RELIGION, OR SOCIO-ECONOMIC
LEVEL. FEWER THAN HALF OF THOSE AFFECTED IN THE WORLD ARE
INCORRECTLY DIAGNOSED, SOME DON'T RECEIVE TREATMENTS. AT ITS
WORST, DEPRESSION CAN LEAD TO SUICIDE. CLOSE TO 800 000
PEOPLE DIE DUE TO SUICIDE EVERY YEAR. SUICIDE IS THE SECOND
LEADING CAUSE OF DEATH IN 15-29-YEAR OLD." - FRAGMENT FROM
THE WORLD HEALTH ORGANIZATION.

FADE TO:

TITLE ON SCREEN: THE INVISIBLE ILLNESS.

THE END.