

Hallucinate

Scene 1 - Benches Doctor

Doctor Hello everyone, and welcome to Valley of the Moon. This show is a bit different than most of our other shows. Its content is a little more adult than our typical shows, and it has some scary themes and scenes. If you feel uncomfortable with this, feel free to step out now. We will also have tour followers who can lead you out at any time if you start feeling uncomfortable.

Now, tonight we are going to step into the life of a young person by the name of Sam. Sam is a teenager who has schizophrenia, a debilitating and terrifying disease that is very hard to live with. We'll be seeing how this affects Sam over the course of the night, and how they learn to help themselves. Valley of the Moon has small and large steps and many low-hanging tree branches, so please watch your head and your step at all times. With that, I think we're ready to begin.

Scene 2 - Crossroads Doctor, Sam, Shawn, Voice #1

Doctor Are we all here? That's good to hear. At this point, Sam hasn't told anyone about the voices they've been hearing, and they've been giving her a hard time. We see them now at school... *(Sam and Shawn enter)*

Shawn So how's life in Samland?

Sam *(looks as though they want to say something but changes their mind)* Pretty good, I... got a new game.

Shawn Oh awesome! *(Looks around, realizes they don't have their backpack)* Shoot, I left my backpack in my last class... be right back!

(Shawn exits, enter Voice #1)

Voice #1 Still not telling anyone about me, eh?

Sam *(scared)* Why should I? I mean, you're not real.

Voice #1 Right, I'm just a figment of your... *(dramatic, sarcastic)* imagination... *(sinister laugh)*

Sam Well if you're not that, then... what are you? *(Voice #1 laughs, exits)* What does that mean? Hello? *(Dejected)* Ugh... I don't understand, why me? Why do I have to go through this? *(Shawn returns with backpack)*

Shawn *(Hesitantly)* Sam? You okay, dude?

Sam Huh? Oh, yeah, I'm fine. Look, I uh, have to get to my next class. I'll see you around. *(Exits)*

Shawn Oh... okay. *(Exits confused)*

Doctor Come on everyone, this way.

Scene 3 - Hollow Tree Doctor, Sam, Voices #1-#5

Doctor Everyone here? Good. It's been a few days and Sam is on their way home from school... *(Sam enters, starts to leave scene, but is cut off by Voice #1)*

Voice #1 Hey there, Sammy! Going home, are we?

Sam Yes... *(tries going around, is blocked by Voice #2)*

Voice #2 Really now? But there's a perfectly good road right there.

Sam (*extremely terrified*) S-s-so? (*Voices 3-5 enter*)

Voice #3 Why don't-

Voice #4 -you just-

Voice #5 -step out there?

Sam No! I'm not doing that!

Voice #2 But why not? Isn't it exhilarating, knowing you're just so-

Voice #1 -close! (*Jumps at Sam, Sam stumbles and falls, Voices laugh*)

Sam Why! Why me?! Why are you-why is this... I don't understand... (*begins crying*)

Voice #1 Why? Because! (*Voices cackle*)

Sam That's it... (*gets up slowly, determined*) I'm done with this, I don't care what happens, I'm telling my parents about you. It's been weeks, you're obviously not going away-(*voices laugh heartily*)-and I'm done! No more! (*Runs out of scene, voices exit laughing after them*)

Doctor As you can see, it was taking a toll on Sam, but thankfully they made the right choice and told their parents. This way, everyone.

Scene 4 - Spider Web Doctor, Sam, Mom, Dad, Voice #1, Voice #2

(*Mom and Dad are already in place*)

Doctor Are we all here? Good. Sam has just gotten home... (*Sam enters, Voices 1 and 2 circling them like vultures*)

Sam Uh... mom, dad? I have something I have to tell you. (*Mom and Dad look up*)

Voice #1 (*singsong*) They're not gonna believe you!

Sam (*twitches slightly*) I um... well, for the last few weeks I've been having these... thoughts. Well, they're not thoughts exactly, it's like someone is... talking to me. In my head.

Mom (*concerned*) What do you mean, Sam?

Sam Well... it's like these voices that talk to me. Well, tease me. Make fun of me. It's... scary.

Dad Scary? That's not good Sam, why didn't you tell us sooner?

Sam I... I was scared. I thought you... you wouldn't believe me. I just... I think I need to see a doctor. (*voices hiss, Sam shies away*) But I don't... I don't know...

Dad O-okay, Sam. We'll call someone. Is there anything we can do to help in the meantime?

Sam I... no, I don't think so. Thank you mom, dad. (*Exits, Mom falls into Dad's arms crying*)

Doctor Let's continue, shall we?

Scene 5 - Magic Room Doctor, Sam, Mom, Dad, Voices 1-5

(*Sam, Mom, and Dad are sitting on stage in front of screen, Voices are behind screen, wreaking havoc with Sam's mind*)

Doctor Eventually, Sam and her parents found me, and I was able to help... a bit. (*Goes up stairs and sits across from Sam and parents*) From what you've told me, it sounds like schizophrenia. There are a few options for medications...

Voice #1 Ha! Medication... Like that'll work. (*Voices laugh*)

Mom Okay, what would you recommend?

Voice #2 (*mockingly*) What would you recommend?

Doctor Well, we can start with a fairly common antipsychotic... (*aside*) I'm not going to share the medications Sam has been on, as everyone is unique and will react differently to different

medications. *(to family)* It can have some minor side effects, like weight gain, so keep an eye on your activity levels and eating habits please, Sam.

Voice #1 Ooh, you're gonna get fat! Fatty McFatpants! *(laughter)*

Doctor Any questions? *(family shakes heads)* Good, then I'll see you in two weeks. *(family exits, Doctor stands, addressing audience)* Unfortunately, as the weeks passed, I was not able to help Sam as much as I would have liked. They simply didn't respond to the medications we tried, and when they did, it was with side effects. But we'll see that next. Follow me, everyone.

Scene 6 - Pennyland Doctor, Sam, Mom, Dad, Voices 1, 2, and 3

Doctor Are we all here? Good. Two months passed, and as I said before, Sam simply did not respond to the medications we tried. Their life became harder and harder as they slipped deeper and deeper into psychosis. *(Sam enters, the voices circling them like vultures)*

Voice #1 You're worthless.

Voice #2 Pathetic.

Voice #3 Useless.

Voice #1 What are you doing with your life?

Voice #2 Nothing!

Voice #3 Nothing whatsoever.

Sam *(slumps into a chair in the middle of the scene, dejected)* You're right. What's the point?

Voice #1 There isn't one.

Voice #2 No point.

Voice #3 To anything.

(Mom and Dad enter)

Mom Sam honey? *(Sam looks up questioningly)* Well, your father and I have been talking with your psychiatrist, and... well...

Dad We all think it would be in your best interests to... to go to a mental hospital.

Sam I'm not crazy. *(Voices laugh, Sam winces)*

Dad Of course not, no one thinks that. It's just... well, your doctor said that would make it easier to change medications more quickly. They'll be able to watch and see to make sure you're not reacting badly, and, well, it'll just be... better.

Voice #1 Are you kidding me? *(as though confronting parents, but neither responds)* Haven't you figured it out yet? Medication is not...

Voice #2 Gonna...

Voice #3 Work!

Sam What if medication doesn't work?

Mom Oh sweetie... *(tries to stroke Sam's hair, but Sam pulls away)* It'll work. It will, you just have to give it time.

Sam *(gets up angrily)* You don't know that! You don't know anything! And now you're gonna send me away because you don't want to deal with it! *(storms out, Voices laughing and following. Mom begins to cry)*

Dad Sam! Sam! *(sighs, comforts Mom)*

Doctor Come on everyone, let's follow Sam.

Scene 7 - Witch's Cauldron Doctor, Sam, Voices 1 and 2, Mom, Dad, Shawn

Doctor Is that everyone? Great. At this point, Sam has been in the hospital for a week. They've had multiple changes in medication, and the doctors have finally found one that seems to be working. It's visiting hours, and their parents are here.

Sam It's going okay I guess. It sucks not being home, but they're saying I'm getting well enough to be released soon.

Voice #1 (*weakly*) Never... get... rid...

Voice #2 Of us...

Sam (*smiles slightly*) And the voices are fading.

Mom That's good!

Dad We're glad to hear that, Sam. How about the day-to-day?

Sam I miss you guys. I miss home. Weirdly enough, I miss school. Really, I miss doing anything besides watching TV and reading. (*family laughs, voices look angry*)

Doctor As you can see, Sam was getting better. A few more days passed, and Sam's friend Shawn from school came to visit them.

Shawn Yo man, how you doing?

Sam I'm good, I should be back to school on Monday, if all goes well.

Shawn That's great! It'll be good to have you back, school is so boring without someone to make fun of it with.

Sam Yeah, I know the feeling...

Shawn So you're getting released when?

Sam Friday hopefully. Everything's getting better, the voices are almost gone, and I'm feeling a lot better.

Shawn That's great dude, can't wait to see you back.

Doctor Sam's life was slowly getting better, and they were indeed released that Friday. Follow me this way, everyone.

Scene 8 - Rabbit Hole Doctor, Sam, Voices 1-5, The Girl

Doctor It had been two weeks to the day since Sam was released, and things were going great for them, when suddenly... (*Sam enters, Voices follow and cut them off*)

Voice #1 Hey numbskull! How you doing?

Voice #3 (*tauntingly*) Is Sammy feeling better? (*Voices cackle*)

Sam How... why are you back?

Voice #2 To welcome our new friend, of course!

Voice #4 And because we missed you sooo much!

Sam New friend? What new friend?

Voice #1 She's coming to meet you.

Voice #2 She's very excited.

Voice #4 You don't want to disappoint her...

Voice #3 Do you? (*Sam flinches, Voices laugh*)

Sam Who are you talking about? Who's coming? What are-

Voices Chorus She's here!

(*Girl enters*)

Sam (*Trying to act normal*) Oh, hi. (*Girl does not respond, cocks head*) Okay... (*Tries to exit, is blocked by Girl*) Can I... help you? (*Girl points at Sam*) Oh gosh... you're her, aren't you? The one the voices were... why is this happening to me? (*Girl smiles*) I don't understand... I don't... I don't want this. I just want to be normal. Why me?

Voice #1 I dunno, random chance?

Voice #4 Who knows?

Voice #5 Who cares?

Voice #2 What matters is...

Voice #3 We're here!

Voice #4 Deal with it... (*voices laugh*)

Sam But I... (*voices exit*) I don't understand! Why? I... (*turns to Girl*) They're not going to tell me, are they? (*Girl shakes head, Sam sighs*) I can't do this. Not again, I've been so happy, so... normal. I just, I don't... what's the point in talking to you, you're not even real... I need to get home. (*Pushes past Girl, exits towards Gallows. Girl follows*)

Doctor Suddenly, for no apparent reason, the voices had returned. Sam went to their parents, and they all came to me, changing their medication yet again. At this point, we were running out of medications to try, but we were able to find one. Follow me this way, everyone.

Scene 9 - Gallows Doctor, Sam, Voices 1-5, Girl

(*Sam is cowering as the Voices circle them and the Girl watches*)

Doctor Sam and their family came to me once again, Sam having a hard time coping. They were no longer attending school and barely left the house. I was able to suggest a case study in which a company was testing a new medication, and the family agreed to try it. At first, it seemed as though nothing changed, but eventually, after a few weeks, change started happening, albeit slowly. (*Voices 4 and 5 exit angrily, Sam's parents join Sam, linking hands. Sam looks a little more confident*) As the weeks passed, Sam's hallucinations got less and less pervasive, and they were able to return to school. (*Voice 3 exits, Shawn joins Sam and parents, linking hands. Sam is almost normal now*) Finally, Sam's life was back on track. With the help of their friends and family, Sam was able to create a support system. (*Voices 1 and 2 exit, Doctor joins family and friends, linking hands*) Sam will always remember this time of their life, and will always be affected by it. Eventually their medication may stop working again, at which time we'll have to find another, but for now, Sam is healthy. And thanks to their support system, they are able to live a normal life. (*Girl exits, all bow*) Thank you all so much for coming out, I'll show you the way out. Care to join us, Sam? (*Sam nods, follows*)

Scene 10 - Exit Gate Doctor, Sam

Sam Thank you all so much for coming out. Everything you've seen here tonight was entirely the creation of volunteers. Valley of the Moon is a non-profit organization, which means everything we do here is thanks to you.

Doctor And please, if you're having a hard time in your life, for any reason, be it depression, mood swings, or even hallucinations, please, please, the most important thing you can do for yourself is talk to someone. Parents, friends, the counselor at your school, whoever you trust, just tell someone. Never suffer alone.

Sam That's right. Thank you all again for coming out, and A-Ze-O pilgrims, which means health to all. Have a good night.