

GLOBOPHOBIA

Written By

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A red screen.

Zoom out of red screen to a red balloon.

EXT. LONDON - RANDOM PAVEMENT - DAY

A Mother and her son are walking on a pavement. The boy has a balloon in his left hand and a chocolate ice cream in his right hand.

As he is licking his ice cream, he accidentally lets go of his balloon and it floats away.

INT. CAR - DAY - SAME TIME

ANN, (16) in a dungaree and converse is driving her father's second hand, run down car. ANN'S FATHER, (early 40's) with a freshly shaved beard, is sitting next to her. She is practising for her driving test.

ANN'S FATHER

OK slow and steady,... there you go.

Ann's bitten nails grip the wheel and her dark pupils dilate as she focuses on the road and begins to drive.

ANN'S FATHER (CONT'D)

Don't forget to signal.

ANN

I know what I'm doing!

Ann turns left and pulls onto the main road. She is gradually getting faster. The balloon floats toward the windscreen of the car.

Ann's heart races and she starts to panic. Her breathing is rapid and she immediately turns the wheel and swerves into the other lane.

ANN'S FATHER

Ann...!!

The car crashes into a car in the other lane.

Ann's Father is unconscious but Ann eyes are wide open and still, like she's just seen a ghost.

Ann looks at her father, realises what she has done, opens the door and limps out of the car.

Other drivers get out their cars confused and worried. Looking in the direction of Ann, they watch her limp into the distance.

CUT TO:

INT. ANN'S FATHER'S HOUSE - LIVING ROOM - EVENING

Ann's father is on the phone talking to Ann's Mother, CLAIRE, pacing back and forth. He has a bandage around his head.

ANN'S FATHER

I thought you said she was getting better and that it was under control. We almost crashed for God's sake.

CLAIRE

We did have it under control, She hasn't had a panic attack like that in years. Can you put her on?

Removing the phone from his ear, he calls for Ann.

ANN'S FATHER

Ann! Ann!

There is no response.

ANN'S FATHER (CONT'D)

I think she's asleep. You can talk with her in the morning.

CLAIRE

Alright, we will speak tomorrow. Good night.

ANN'S FATHER

Night.

Ann's Father hangs up the phone and sighs. He walks up the stairs to Ann's room. He open the door slowly and checks on her. She is sleeping. He shuts the door and the goes to bed.

CUT TO:

INT. ANN'S FATHERS HOUSE - ANN'S BEDROOM - EVENING

Ann is having a nightmare. She is tossing and turning.

FADE TO:

BEGIN FLASHBACK

INT. CLAIRE'S HOUSE - DAY

Claire is carrying a bag of clothes downstairs. Ann is pulling a suitcase.

ANN

Do I have to go?

Claire is focusing on carrying the bags and isn't looking at her daughter.

CLAIRE

You haven't seen your father in a long time.

ANN

It wouldn't hurt for him to live closer.

Claire turns her attention toward Ann.

CLAIRE

Look he misses you, and I know you miss him. It will give you time to bond.

ANN

(mimic)

Bond.

A car horn beeps from outside.

CLAIRE

Your father's here. Come on.

They both leave the house.

CUT TO:

EXT. OUTSIDE CLAIRE'S HOUSE - CONTINUOUS

Claire drops the bag of clothes on the floor and walks toward the car. Ann's father gets out of the car. They share a somewhat familiar hug.

Ann is watching them from outside the front door. Her father looks different, cleaner, maybe he's shaved. It seems he put some effort in.

Ann picks up the bag of clothes and rolls the suitcase toward the car.

ANN'S FATHER
Hey!! I've missed you.

Ann's Father opens his arms for a hug. Ann receives his hug.

ANN
You look different. You look good.

Ann's Father laughs.

ANN'S FATHER
Come on it's a long drive.

They both say goodbye to Claire and get in the car. She watches them drive away.

END FLASHBACK

CUT TO:

INT. ANN'S FATHER'S HOUSE - LIVING ROOM - MORNING

Ann's Father is on the phone. Again Pacing.

CLAIRE
I don't think it's a good idea to force that on her.

ANN'S FATHER
Look, this is serious. She needs professional help. She needs therapy.

CLAIRE
Can you just put her on?

ANN'S FATHER
I told you, she's getting ready.

Ann slowly walks down the stairs. Ann's father gestures the phone toward his daughter.

ANN'S FATHER (CONT'D)
Your mother wants to talk to you.

Ann takes the phone and talks to her mother.

CLAIRE
What happened? Are you sure your okay?

ANN
Yeah I'm okay. It was just the shock of it you know. But I'm fine now.

CLAIRE
Are you sure your not hurt?

ANN
Look, I'm okay. Really I am.

CLAIRE
Okay. But your father wants you to start therapy again.

ANN
What! He said that. But I told you I'm fine.

CLAIRE
He thinks it will be a good idea. just think about it. Okay?

No response.

CLAIRE (CONT'D)
OKAY?

ANN
Fine.

Ann passes the phone back to her Father.

CLAIRE
You know, maybe I should come and pick her up...

ANN'S FATHER
You think I can't take care of my own daughter? She's fine here, I can deal with it.

ANN'S FATHER (CONT'D) (CONT'D)
We will find her a therapist and it will all be fine.

CLAIRE
I'm just looking out for her.

ANN'S FATHER
So am I.

Ann's Father hangs up the phone.

CUT TO:

INT. IN CAR (OUTSIDE THERAPIST BUILDING) - DAY

Ann and her Father are sitting in the car, in silence.

ANN

I don't want to do this, I'm fine.

ANN'S FATHER

Come on, if you don't like the session we won't come back. But if you ever want to drive in your own car without me, and live a life.. your gonna have to do this.

Ann gives in a little, she knows it's true. She looks at the floor of the car, without making eye contact with her Father.

ANN

Fine, but I'm going in alone. You can wait here for me.

Ann snatches the appointment card, gets out the car and walks into the building.

CUT TO:

INT. THERAPIST BUILDING - WAITING ROOM - MOMENTS LATER

In the room there are a few people sitting waiting to be called in.

THE RECEPTIONIST is wearing jeans and a t-shirt. She is on her phone chewing gum loudly with her mouth open. She looks as professional as one can look whilst chewing gum.

As Ann walks in she looks around at the people sitting in the waiting room.

There is a man who is well dressed. He looks clean like he's got it all figured out. He is perfect, calved by God. Like a black Hercules. How does a man like that, end up a place like this?

The man smiles at Ann and then takes a pill which he downs with a plastic cup of water. His only imperfection is the skin around his nails. They are chewed and picked to the point of bleeding. Ann doesn't notice.

RECEPTIONIST

How can I help you?

Ann looks at her appointment card.

ANN
I'm here to see Dr Rebecca Walker.

Ann looks back at the man. He is staring into space. He looks like he is day dreaming.

RECEPTIONIST
First time?

ANN
Huh, yes.

RECEPTIONIST
How old are you?

ANN
16.

RECEPTIONIST
Read this form, then sign please.

The receptionist gives Ann a sheet of paper and a pen to sign.

Ann skims and signs.

RECEPTIONIST (CONT'D)
And take this.

The receptionist gives Ann a pill and a cup.

ANN
What is is?

RECEPTIONIST
(unsure)
It helps with the anxiety.
There is a water fountain there.

The receptionist points to the water fountain in the corner of the room.

We know the pill is for something else.

RECEPTIONIST (CONT'D)
You will be called in shortly. Take
a seat.

Ann walks toward the the water fountain. As she walks DR REBECCA WALKER, a tall, slender woman with dark long hair and flawless, red lipstick opens the door to her office and a young man walks out.

DR REBECCA WALKER
You did well today.

Dr Rebecca Walker pats her hand on the young man's shoulder. Ann watches but can't see Dr Rebecca Walker's face as the young man is blocking it.

Ann turns back around and fills her cup with water. From the corner of her eye she can see the young man walking out across the room.

The young man looks toward the floor the entire time, and is rubbing his head. From the back, his hair is scruffy and clothes are dirty. He looks the complete opposite of the well dressed man.

Dr Rebecca Walker calls the well dressed man in.

DR REBECCA WALKER (CONT'D)
Noah?

NOAH drinks the last of his water, smiles at Ann and walks toward the doctors office.

Ann watches as he walks and shuts the door.

Ann glances around at the plain room, puts the pill in her mouth and drinks.

She then takes a seat and waits to be called in.

CUT TO:

INT. THERAPIST BUILDING - THERAPIST OFFICE - MOMENTS LATER

The room is wide. It has two chairs facing opposite each other with a table between them. The table has a glass of water on it.

There is a smaller table next to the therapist with a glass of water, a notebook and a box on it.

Ann and Dr Rebecca Walker are sitting opposite each other. They are looking into each others eyes.

Ann is nervous. She is the first to break eye contact.

Dr Rebecca Walker maintains eye contact while she picks up a picture from the box next to her.

It's of a deflated red balloon. Ann looks at the picture but the therapist is still staring straight at Ann.

Ann shows little anxiety to the first picture. The therapist puts the picture down and records Ann's reaction in her notebook.

The therapist picks up another picture, this time it's a picture of a red blown up balloon.

Ann looks at the picture and hesitates a bit. Her breathing speeds up enough to be noticed.

ANN

What are you doing?

The therapist ignores Ann and puts the picture back in the box.

Ann is nervous and uncomfortable. She thinks the therapist is strange.

Dr Rebecca Walker picks up a packet of deflated balloons and without warning, she rips it open. She takes out a red balloon.

Ann is shaking.

The therapist rubs the deflated balloon while she is looking into Ann's eyes. She doesn't care how uneasy Ann feels.

ANN'S FATHER

What are you going to do with that?

THE THERAPIST

What happened to you?

ANN

What?

THE THERAPIST

What happened to you?

ANN

I don't understand.

Dr Rebecca Walker stretches the balloon and starts to blow it up. She takes two deep long blows.

She takes the balloon out of her mouth, holding it so it doesn't deflate. Her lipstick remains perfect.

Ann is shaking and her breathing is rapid.

DR REBECCA WALKER

You need to take me to the beginning. What do you remember?

ANN

What are you talking about?

DR REBECCA WALKER

When you first succumbed to this fear. What do you remember?

ANN

I... I don't remember anything. I was too young.

Dr Rebecca Walker lifts the balloon to her lips slowly, and blows twice.

Ann is having a panic attack and is trying to get up but is too distraught to do so.

Ann can barely get words out, she is crying. Sweat starts to appear at her temples and forehead.

ANN (CONT'D)

A Balloon...on my birthday.

Dr Rebecca Walker takes the balloon out of her mouth but gives Ann an I need more than that kind of look.

ANN (CONT'D)

A clown... I was a baby.

Dr Rebecca Walker lets go of the balloon so the balloon flies around the room.

Ann gasps and catches her breath, she breaks down and cries more.

Dr Rebecca Walker gets up, grabs Ann's water from the table and offers it to her. She is kneeling in front of Ann.

DR REBECCA WALKER

You did well. Now I want you to remember exactly what happened, in detail. Now go home and get some rest. I will see you soon.

Ann is still shaken up, but accepts the water and takes a sip. Her breathing is slightly slower. She gives the Therapist back the water.

Dr Rebecca Walker holds the water in her hand. Ann gets up abruptly and floats out of the room.

With tears in her eyes, once she passes the door, Ann runs out of the building and toward her fathers car.

CUT TO:

INT. IN CAR (OUTSIDE THERAPIST BUILDING) - CONTINUOUS

Ann is obviously still distressed, she sits in the back seat diagonal from her father.

Ann's Father turns his head back.

ANN'S FATHER

Ann. Whats wrong? Are you okay?

ANN

Just Drive!

ANN'S FATHER

Ann

ANN

Please, just drive.

He drives.

CUT TO:

INT. ANN'S FATHERS HOUSE - LIVING ROOM - LATER

Ann is sitting on the sofa, crying. Her Father is sitting next to her. It is clear Ann wants to be alone.

ANN'S FATHER

Please, tell me what happened? We don't have to go back there.

Ann's Father attempts to sit closer and comfort her, by putting his arm on her shoulder.

Ann moves away quickly.

ANN

I'm fine okay! But I'm not going back! Why did you force me to go?

ANN'S FATHER

Okay, don't worry I won't take you back there.

Ann's Father gets up and picks up his phone. Ann looks up at him.

ANN

What are you doing?

ANN'S FATHER
Calling you mother.

ANN
No! Please don't. Please don't call
her.

He puts the phone down. He sits down next to her and pulls
her into a hug. She accepts.

ANN'S FATHER
I promise, I won't let this happen
to you ever again.

CUT TO:

INT. ANN'S FATHER'S HOUSE - ANN'S BEDROOM - EVENING

Ann is in bed having another nightmare. She is distressed,
turning back and forth.

FADE TO:

BEGIN FLASHBACK

EXT. CLAIRE'S HOUSE - BACK GARDEN - DAY

BABY ANN is having a birthday party. The back garden is
filled with toddlers, their parents, toys and a bouncy
castle.

There are 4 year old's all over the place. You can't tell
whose birthday it is.

Some children are sitting on the grass, watching a CLOWN
fiddle with balloons to create animals and shapes.

CUT TO:

INT. CLAIRE'S HOUSE - KITCHEN - DAY

Claire is in the kitchen preparing the cake.

CUT TO:

EXT. CLAIRE'S HOUSE - BACK GARDEN - SAME TIME

The clown gives a balloon dog to one toddler. The clown then
looks at baby Ann (4 years old).

THE CLOWN
What about you Birthday girl, I
know what you'd like.

The Clown's voice is familiar but he is changing his voice to sound like a real clown.

The Clown takes his balloons, turns around to hide the balloons and starts to make a giraffe. He turns back around, bends down and gives it to Baby Ann.

As the clown gives Ann the balloon, it pops right in her face.

Ann starts to cry uncontrollably. She's screaming. The clown attempts to pick her up and comfort her but she just screams louder.

END FLASHBACK

CUT TO:

INT. ANN'S FATHER'S HOUSE - ANN'S BEDROOM - NIGHT

Ann is tossing and turning, when she wakes up. Her head hurts so she gets out of bed and goes downstairs to get some water.

CUT TO:

INT. ANN'S FATHER'S HOUSE - KITCHEN - NIGHT

Ann can see her father falling asleep on the sofa. She runs the tap and gets a glass of water.

She holds the glass of water near her mouth, gazes at her father, sighs and drinks the water. She finishes it, fills it back up and goes back to bed.

CUT TO:

INT. ANN'S FATHER'S HOUSE - KITCHEN - MORNING

Ann's is making cereal while her father is in the Living room watching TV.

CUT TO:

INT. ANN'S FATHERS HOUSE - LIVING ROOM - MORNING

Ann's is dressed and sits next to her father with her bowl of cereal.

ANN'S FATHER
Good morning.

ANN
Morning.

ANN'S FATHER
Feeling any better?

ANN
A little bit.

Ann takes a spoon full of cereal. There is silence but the chewing of food and the TV.

ANN (CONT'D)
I want to go back to the therapist.

ANN'S FATHER
What do you mean? You nearly had a panic attack there. I thought we decided your not going back?

ANN
I changed my mind. And I think it might have helped me.

ANN'S FATHER
What do you mean?

ANN
I can remember things, from when I was young.

ANN'S FATHER
What do you remember?

ANN
My fourth birthday party and a clown with a balloon.

ANN'S FATHER
Didn't your mother and I already tell you that story. We think that experience is what started all of this. But there's no way to know for sure.

ANN
(beat)
But it was so clear.

There is brief silence. Even the TV seems to quieten.

ANN'S FATHER
So you think the therapist helped you remember?

ANN
Maybe she did.

Ann takes another spoon of cereal.

ANN'S FATHER

Ann, that therapist just made your life worse. Your not going back there. It's for the best.

ANN

I need to go back.

Ann's Father is angry. No longer Patient.

ANN'S FATHER

You need to listen, what she did that's not therapy. It's not healthy. If you want to get better, we will find someone else. We just need to fix this problem, but you are not going back to that place. Don't you think I know what's best for you.

Ann is surprised of his adamant behaviour and raised voice. But is even more stunned by her response.

ANN

(beat)

You don't know whats best for me. You hardly even know me. You don't even see me. You don't know what I like or what I do for fun. You don't know me. And every now and then you pretend that you care, but you don't. You don't care about me!

ANN (CONT'D)

So How can you know what's best for me?

ANN'S FATHER

(soft)

Ann.. Of course I care about you. And if I could see you more I would. It's just..

ANN

It's just what!

ANN'S FATHER

Look I'm sorry. But I don't want you to ever feel like i don't care about you because I do.

ANN

No you don't. And you know mum
would agree with me.

He takes a deep breath.

ANN'S FATHER

No. Your not listening. We are not
going back. I promise if you want
another therapist we will find
someone else.

They sit in an uncomfortable silence for a few minuets.

He views Ann's silence an act of submission.

Ann gets up and takes her bowl to the kitchen. The TV is
playing louder in the background.

Ann's Father is still facing the TV. Ann puts her shoes and
jacket on.

ANN'S FATHER (CONT'D)

Where are you going?

ANN

For a walk.

Ann storms out the house and shuts the door.

CUT TO:

EXT. OUTSIDE ANN'S FATHER'S HOUSE - CONTINUOUS

Ann shakes the car keys in her hand. She stops to rethink
her decision, but the decision is already made. She unlocks
the car and gets in.

She struggles to start the engine but eventually starts to
drive away.

CUT TO:

INT. ANN'S FATHER'S HOUSE - LIVING ROOM - SAME TIME

Ann's Father hears the sound of the engine. He looks for the
remote and pauses the television.

ANN'S FATHER

What.

He frantically gets up, runs to the window then the door and
rushes outside.

ANN'S FATHER (CONT'D)

Ann!! Ann!!

He watches his daughter drive off into the distance.

CUT TO:

EXT. ON THE STREET (OUTSIDE THERAPIST OFFICE) - DAY

Ann walks into the building.

CUT TO:

INT. THERAPIST BUILDING - ELEVATOR - CONTINUOUS

Ann walks out of the Elevator.

CUT TO:

INT. THERAPIST BUILDING - WAITING ROOM - CONTINUOUS

Ann walks into the waiting room.

RECEPTIONIST

Have you got an appointment?

Ann walks straight past the receptionist and opens the door to Dr Rebecca walker's office.

CUT TO:

INT. THERAPIST BUILDING - OFFICE - CONTINUOUS

Ann enters the room it looks untouched, nothing has changed. Except for a glass of water and a pill set on the table.

Dr Rebecca Walker is sitting in her chair as if she was expecting her.

DR REBECCA WALKER

Ann, didn't expect to see you back so soon. Do we have an appointment?

Ann sits in the chair opposite Dr Rebecca Walker.

ANN

What did you do to me? I can remember.

DR REBECCA WALKER

You did that yourself.

ANN

What?

DR REBECCA WALKER
You need to remember more.

ANN
How?

DR REBECCA WALKER
What happened after. How does the
story end?

ANN
I don't know. I can't remember.

Dr Rebecca Walker gestures to the glass.

Ann is reluctant but swallows the pill whole with a gush of
water.

DR REBECCA WALKER
Let us begin.

Dr Rebecca walker takes out a red balloon, and stretches it
in preparation to blow.

ANN
Please don't.

DR REBECCA WALKER
Do you want to remember?

Dr Rebecca walker puts the balloon to her mouth and starts
to blow.

CUT TO:

INT. IN UBER - DAY

Ann's father is upset and has one hand on the phone and the
other is guiding the Uber driver.

ANNS FATHER
(to the Uber driver)
Take a left here.

ANN'S FATHER
No she just left. How is this my
fault?

ANN'S FATHER (CONT'D)
I've called her she's not
answering!

CUT TO:

INT. THERAPIST BUILDING - OFFICE - SAME TIME

The office is filled with three red blown up balloons. Dr Rebecca Walker picks up a pin.

DR REBECCA WALKER
You need to remember.

Dr Rebecca Walker pops the balloon.

Ann's is distraught and runs to the corner of the room, with a look of pure terror. She faints in the corner.

FADE IN:

BEGIN FLASHBACK

INT. CLAIRE'S HOUSE - KITCHEN - DAY

Claire can hear her daughter crying, she rushes out to the garden.

CUT TO:

EXT. CLAIRE'S HOUSE - BACK GARDEN - DAY

Claire picks up her daughter and comforts her.

CLAIRE
What happened?

THE CLOWN
I don't know she just started
crying.

The clown is no longer changing their voice. The voice is recognisable.

Claire walks back into the house with Ann.

The Clown takes off his wig and breaks character and follows Claire to the house. The Clown is Ann's Father.

END FLASHBACK

INT. THERAPIST BUILDING - OFFICE - MOMENTS LATER

Ann's Father walks into the room. Ann is sleeping in the corner.

ANN'S FATHER
What did you do to her!
What have you done!?!?

Dr Rebecca Walker smiles at him.

DR REBECCA WALKER
I think it's what you've done.

He shakes his head and picks up his daughter. He leaves the office.

INT. THERAPY BUILDING - WAITING ROOM - CONTINUOUS

We can see the back of Ann's Father leaving. We faintly hear Dr Rebecca walker call in her next Patient.

INT. IN CAR - LATER

Ann's wakes up quietly and watches her father drive. He has speaker on and is talking to her mother. He is loud, angry and throwing gestures. The voices are muffled. It doesn't matter what is being said.

He looks down at her. He is still.

FADE OUT.

THE END