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Friday 13 March 2020 - the beginning of an uncertain time

I still remember this day well. On 13 March, the performance of the black theatre (school theatre at Westfalen-Kolleg Paderborn) with the title "Finsterworld" was to take place. Friday the 13th as a bad omen? This was true for me and many others. We had been rehearsing for a whole year. We had played our dress rehearsal the day before and it was a complete success.

The excitement grew before the premiere of the play we had put so much time, love, sacrifice and passion into. At the dress rehearsal, there were already the first doubts as to whether we would be able to perform the next day as we had imagined due to the coronavirus. Many possible alternatives were discussed, precautions were taken and alternative options were considered. We didn't want to give up our hard work and our beloved theatre piece and were determined to share it with others.

Unfortunately, the inevitable came true and disillusionment set in when we were told by our director.

"We have to put the play on ice for an indefinite period of time!"

What I didn't realise at the time was that we would never perform the play.

And so began a long period of uncertainty, social isolation and collective egotism.

The uncertainty as to whether the theatre performance we had rehearsed for so long would ever take place, the uncertainty as to how the upcoming A-level exams would go and whether they would even be feasible, as well as the uncertainty about our upcoming studies. Then there was the social isolation from friends, family and leisure activities and the collective selfishness of hoarding pasta, toilet paper and other everyday necessities.

The society we live in and social interaction were put to the test. And well, it didn't go really smoothly. But who can blame us.

The school-leaving exams were then held under strict protective measures and the applicable corona rules. After months of isolation, it was definitely not a pleasant experience to take exams with masks on in the heat of the premises that would decide our future careers. But somehow it worked. The Abitur was

passed. Graduating from Westfalen-Kolleg Paderborn, where I had one of my best times, was overshadowed by the coronavirus.

Unfortunately, the uncertainty didn't stop there. Corona was spreading around the world and studying psychology was just around the corner. A new chapter, a new opportunity, a new city, new experiences and lots of new contacts. It was very exciting and scary at the same time.

I moved to Braunschweig at the end of October 2020 to start my psychology degree in the hope that the coronavirus would soon subside. My hopes were not realised, I spent some of the loneliest moments of my online studies in a city where I knew no one but one person.

Thank goodness a good friend I had met at Westfalen-Kolleg and with whom I had performed in theatre had moved into the same hall of residence to study in Braunschweig. I don't know what effect this time would have had on me if I had been completely alone....

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