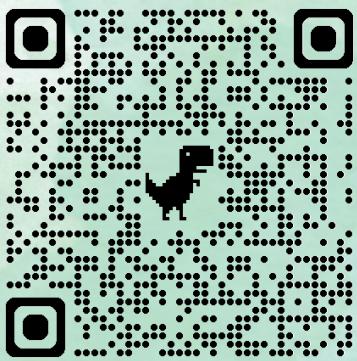


# YOU DON'T TALK ABOUT THAT AT WORK

Sophie Küster · Agile on the Beach 2024

@MlleSophiePofie #AotB #AotB24 #AgileOnTheBeach



# HI, I'M SOPHIE!

This is me



Sophie Küster  
she/her

@MlleSophiePofie  
@MlleSophiePofie.bsky.social  
@MlleSophiePofie@sw-development-is.social

This is my job



Mathematician  
Tester, Fledgling Dev  
Scrum Master  
Team Lead  
Conference Speaker  
General Busybody

This is my employer



crown GmbH

Bonn, Hamburg, Białystok (PL)

wir entwickeln software\_

This is also me

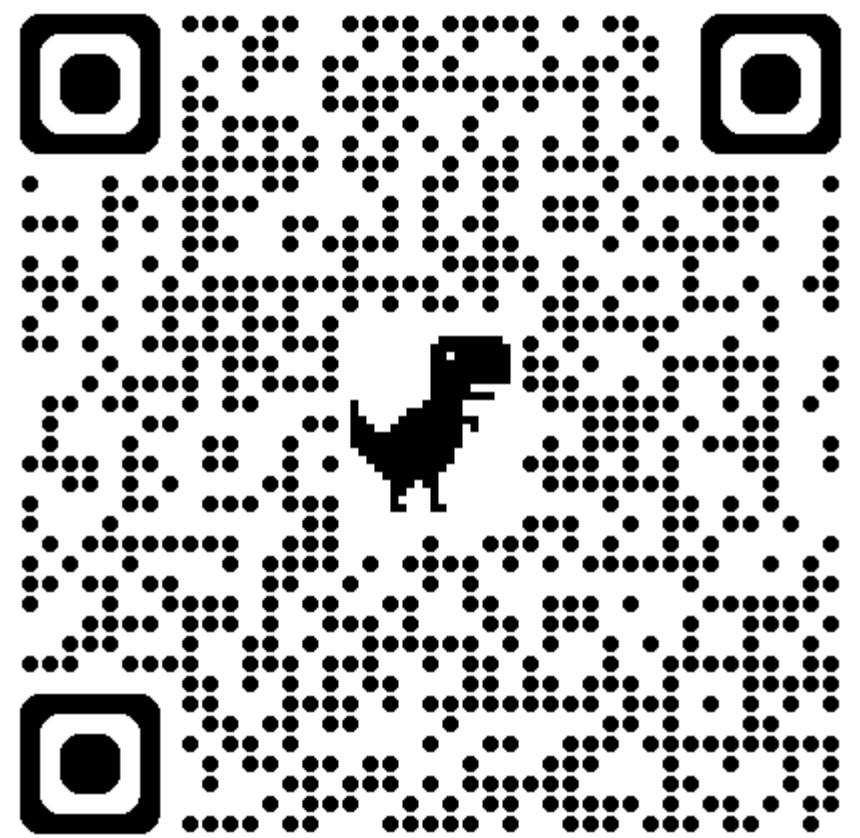


Fighter/Dancer  
Ballerina, Novice Polerina  
Runner  
Knitter, Baker, Costume Maker  
Plant Mum, Doting Aunty



PLEASE  
RATE MY  
SESSION!

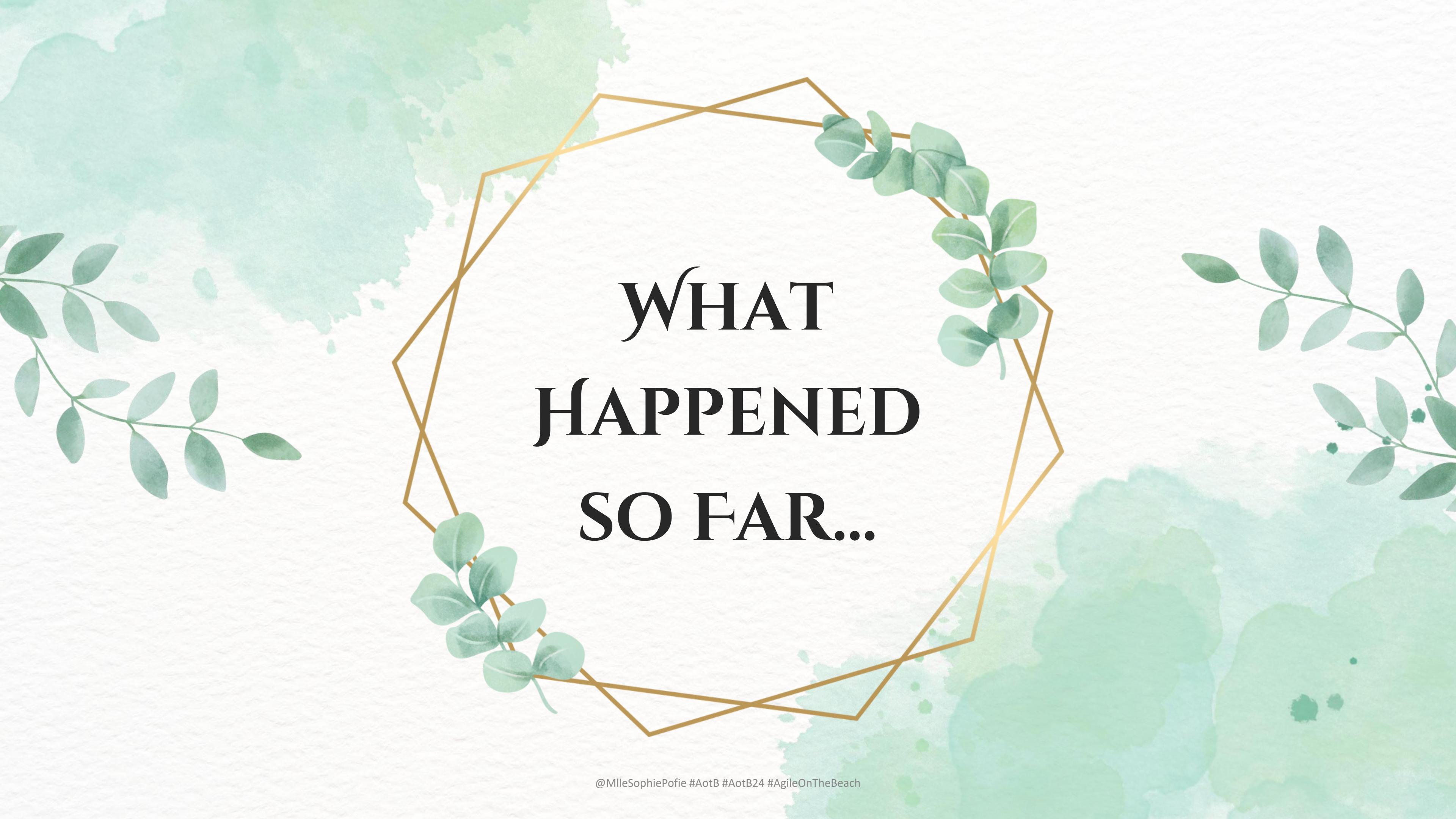
@MlleSophiePofie #AotB #AotB24 #AgileOnTheBeach



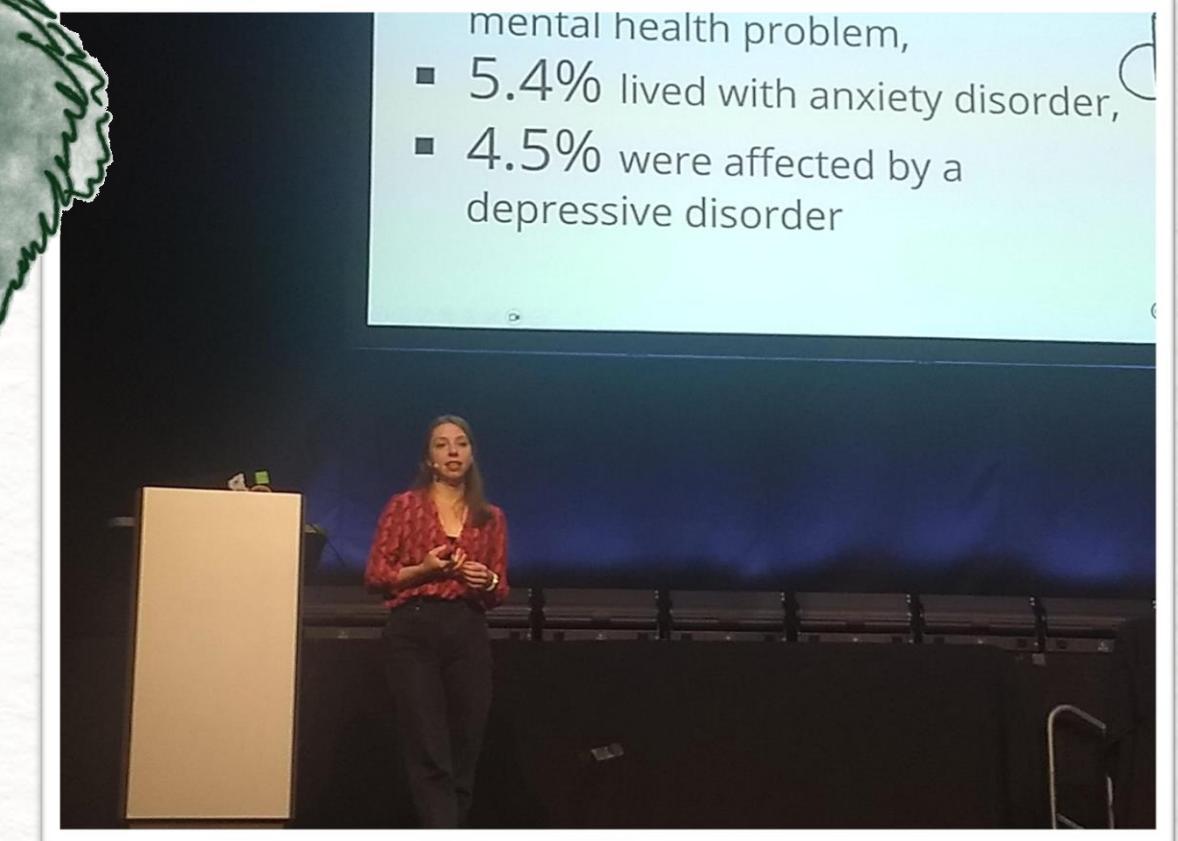
# CONTENT NOTE

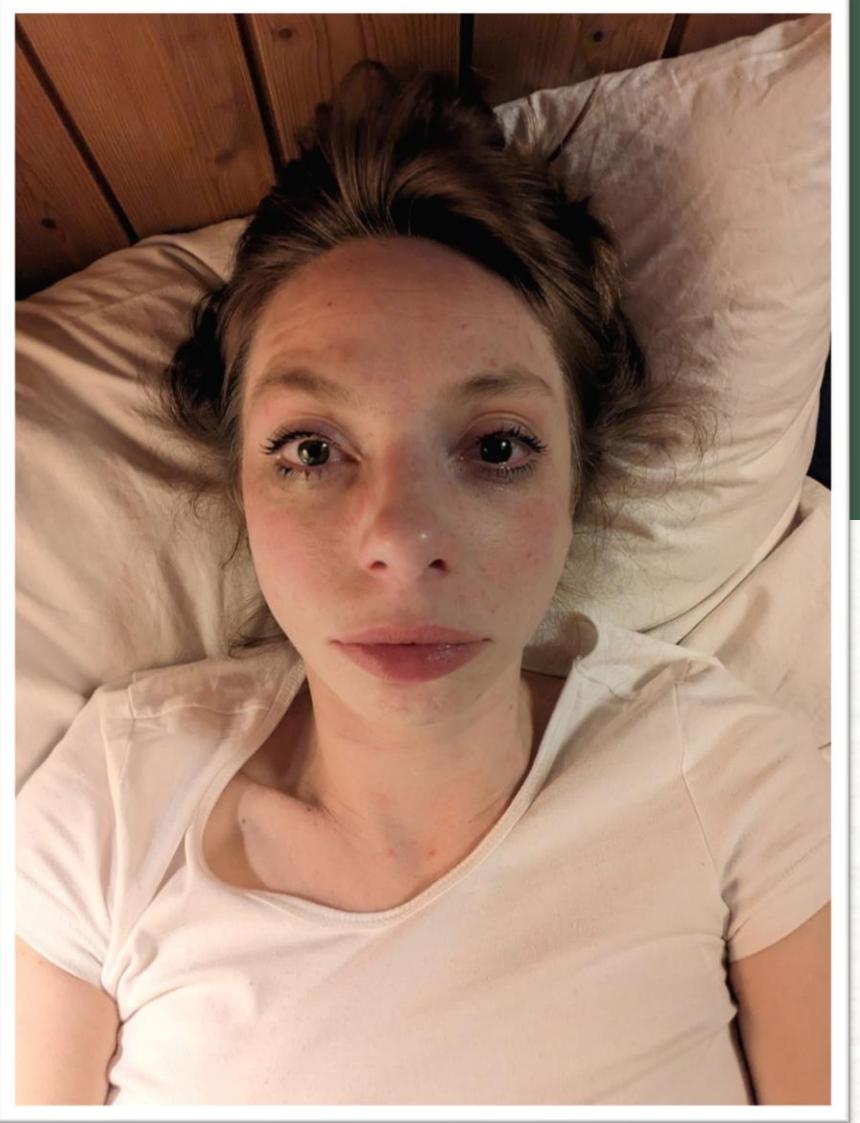
- Mental illness
  - depression, anxiety, eating disorder*
  - self-harm*
  - intrusive suicidal thoughts*
- (Verbal) harassment
- Physical illness
  - cancer*
- Covid-19 pandemic
- War





WHAT  
HAPPENED  
SO FAR...







# YOU DON'T TALK ABOUT THAT AT WORK

Sophie Küster · Agile on the Beach 2024

# YOU DON'T TALK ABOUT THAT AT WORK

## PART II

Sophie Küster · Agile on the Beach 2024

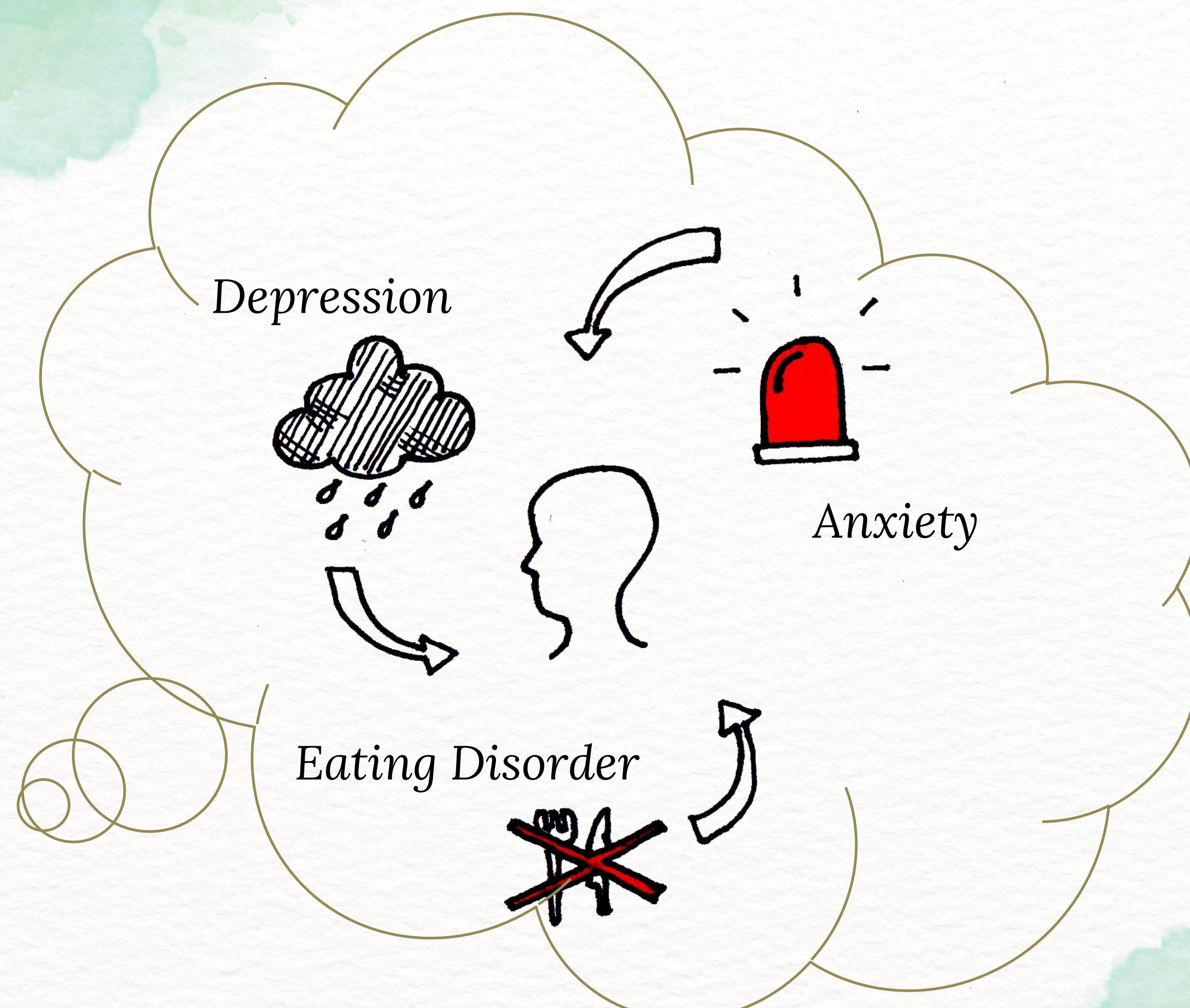


# YOU DON'T TALK ABOUT THAT AT WORK

PART II

*RETURN OF THE BRAIN WEASELS*

Sophie Küster · Agile on the Beach 2024



**HIRE ME!**

Name : Sophie

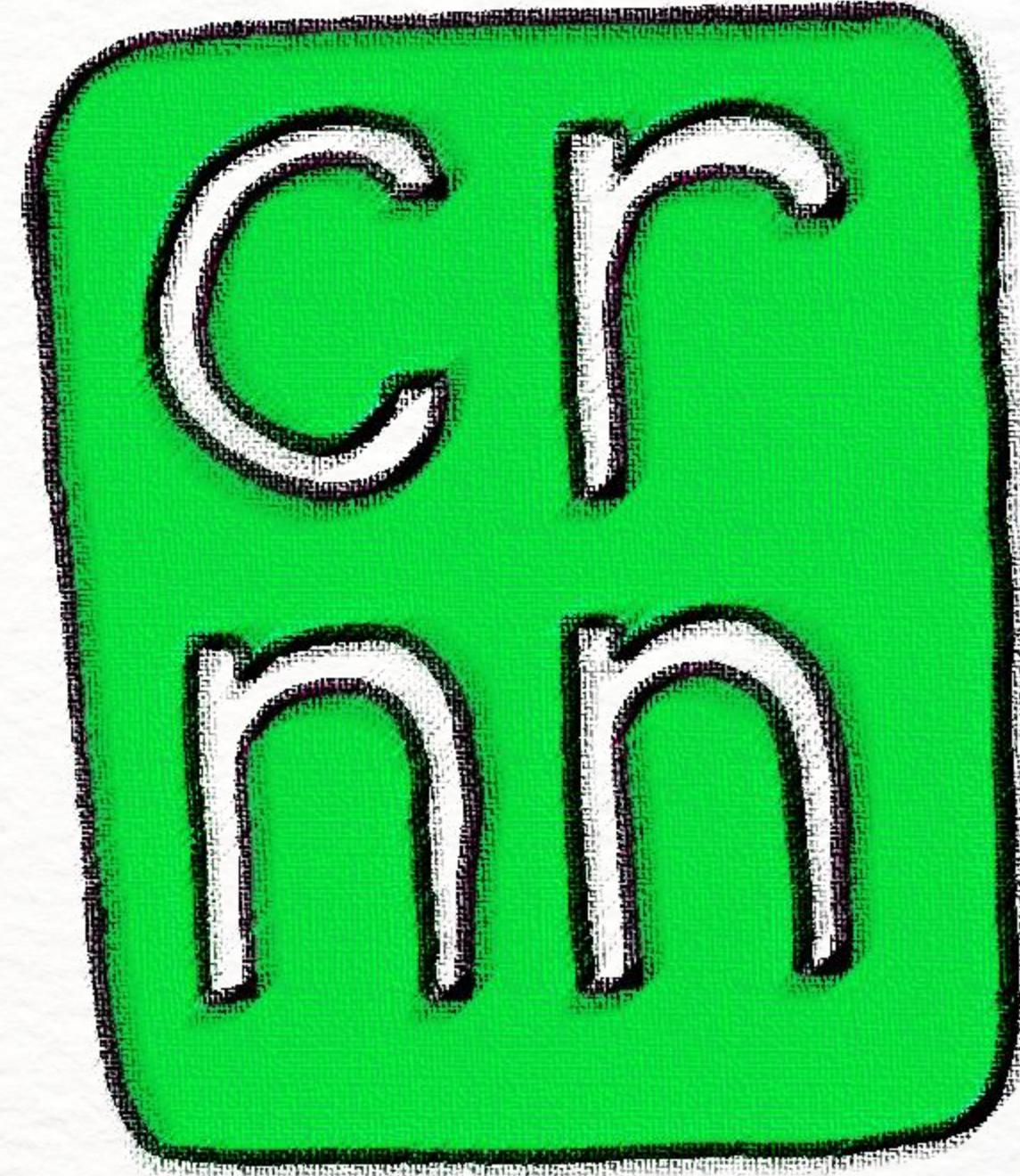
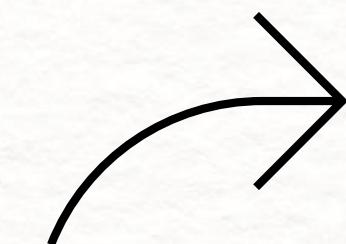
Experience:

Quite a few bad ones.

Skills:

- Overthinking
- Jumping to the worst conclusions
- Pretty hair (?)



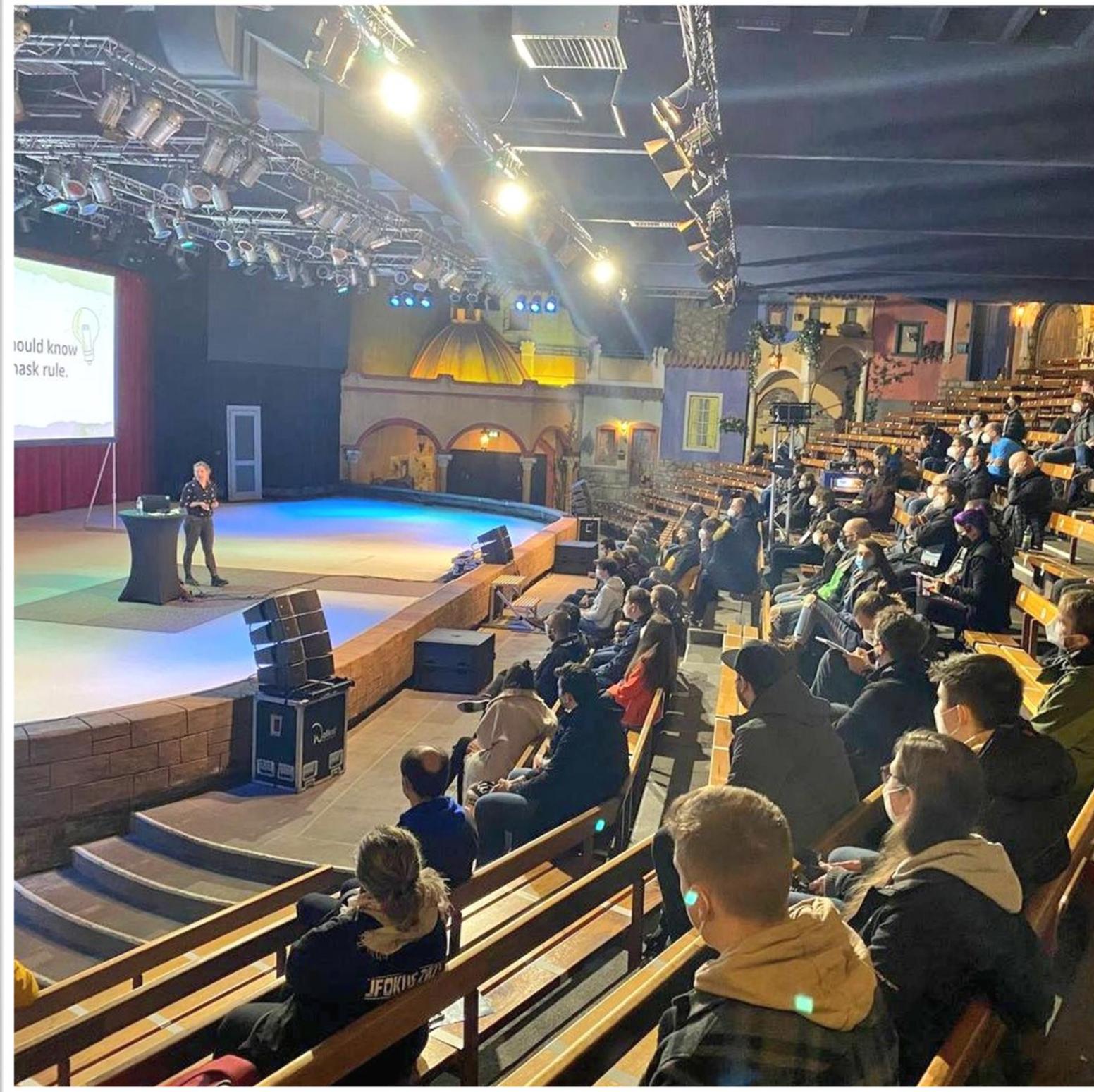


Me at work\*:



(\* stock image)

Me at  
my first  
3D talk\*:



(\* actual  
footage)



# LESSONS LEARNED

01

You are never the  
only one.

# IN 2018 IN THE EU

- 17% of the population had a mental health problem,
- 5.4% lived with anxiety disorder,
- 4.5% were affected by a depressive disorder



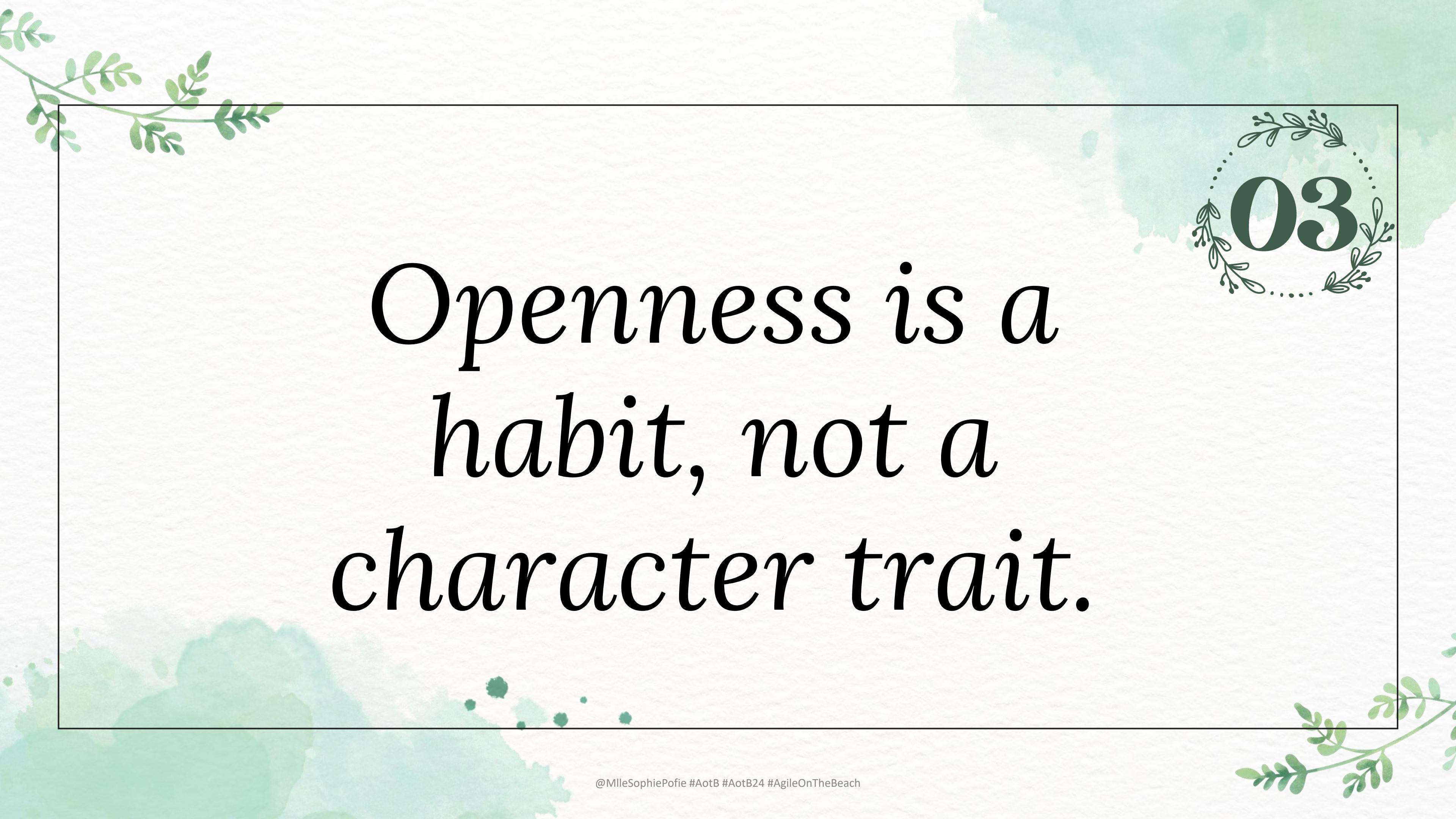
02

Openness inspires  
openness.



**secret**

Admit One



03

Openness is a  
habit, not a  
character trait.

Don't let it turn  
into an addiction.



04

Showing  
vulnerability  
shows strength.

Beware of  
horrible people.



05

Some people just  
don't get it.

# Top 3 Helpful Tips for Getting Through the Dark Days (That Don't Help at All!)

You just have  
to stay  
positive!

But you have  
nothing to be  
depressed about!

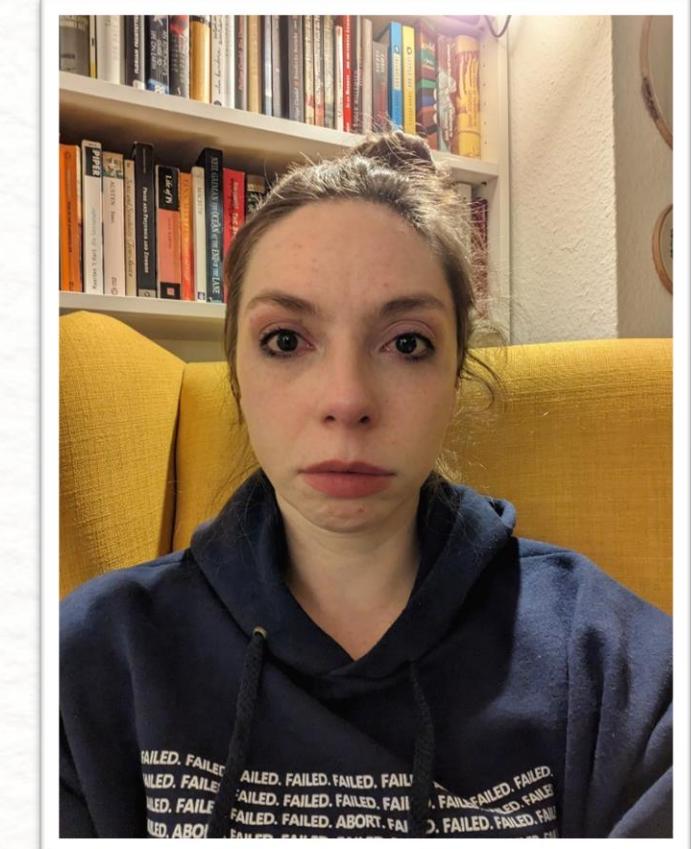
It's all in  
your head!

I'll still keep  
trying to explain.

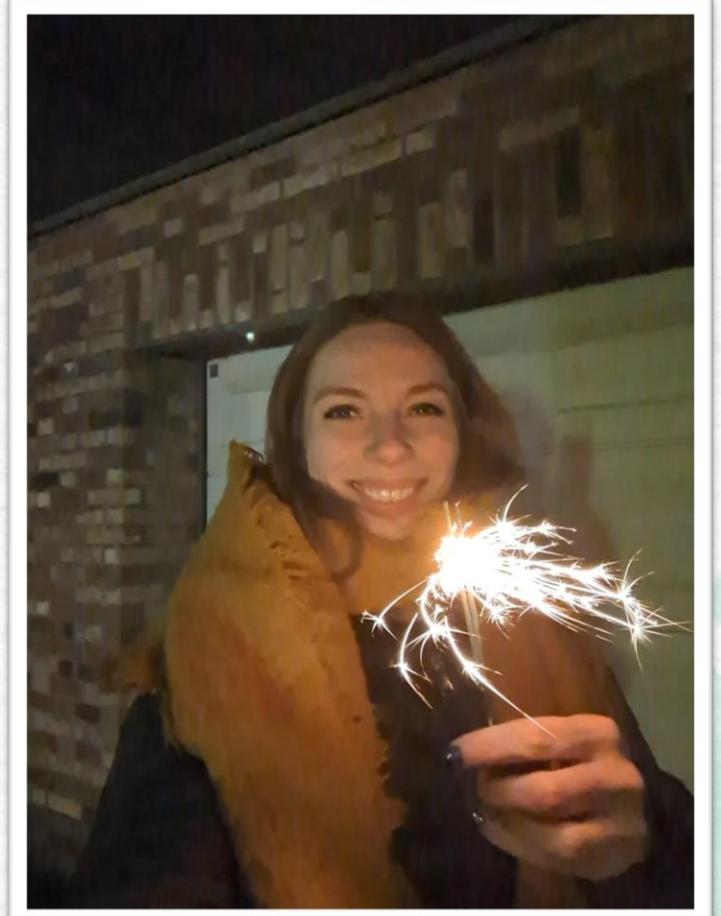


# (TOTALLY INCOMPLETE) LIST OF SYMPTOMS

- Feelings of sadness, guilt, hopelessness, anger, irritability; numbness
  - Social withdrawal
  - Loss of energy, focus, interest
  - Changes in appetite, weight, sleep
  - Self-loathing, recklessness
  - Unexplained pains, aches, rashes



*What a person looks  
like during a severe  
depressive episode*



Also what a person looks like during a severe depressive episode

06

Some people get it  
really badly  
wrong.

07

People want to  
help you. Let  
them.

08

There's strength  
in numbers.



@MlleSophiePofie #AotB #AotB24 #AgileOnTheBeach

09

Bluntness  
uncomplicates  
things.

## PUBLIC SERVICE ANNOUNCEMENT:

- Take your medical check-ups seriously.
  - Yes, also during a pandemic.
- No, you're not too young for it anyway.
  - (Trust me on that one.)
  - Learn how to self-examine.



A detailed illustration of a ferret dressed as Elsa from Frozen. The ferret has its mouth wide open, singing into a vintage-style silver microphone. It wears a blue, sequined gown with a large, voluminous blue tutu skirt. Small blue musical notes float around its head. The background is a light beige with soft green watercolor washes.

Conceal,  
don't feel!

10

Don't forget the  
oxygen mask rule.

Please secure your  
own oxygen mask  
before assisting  
others.



10

Don't forget the  
oxygen mask rule.

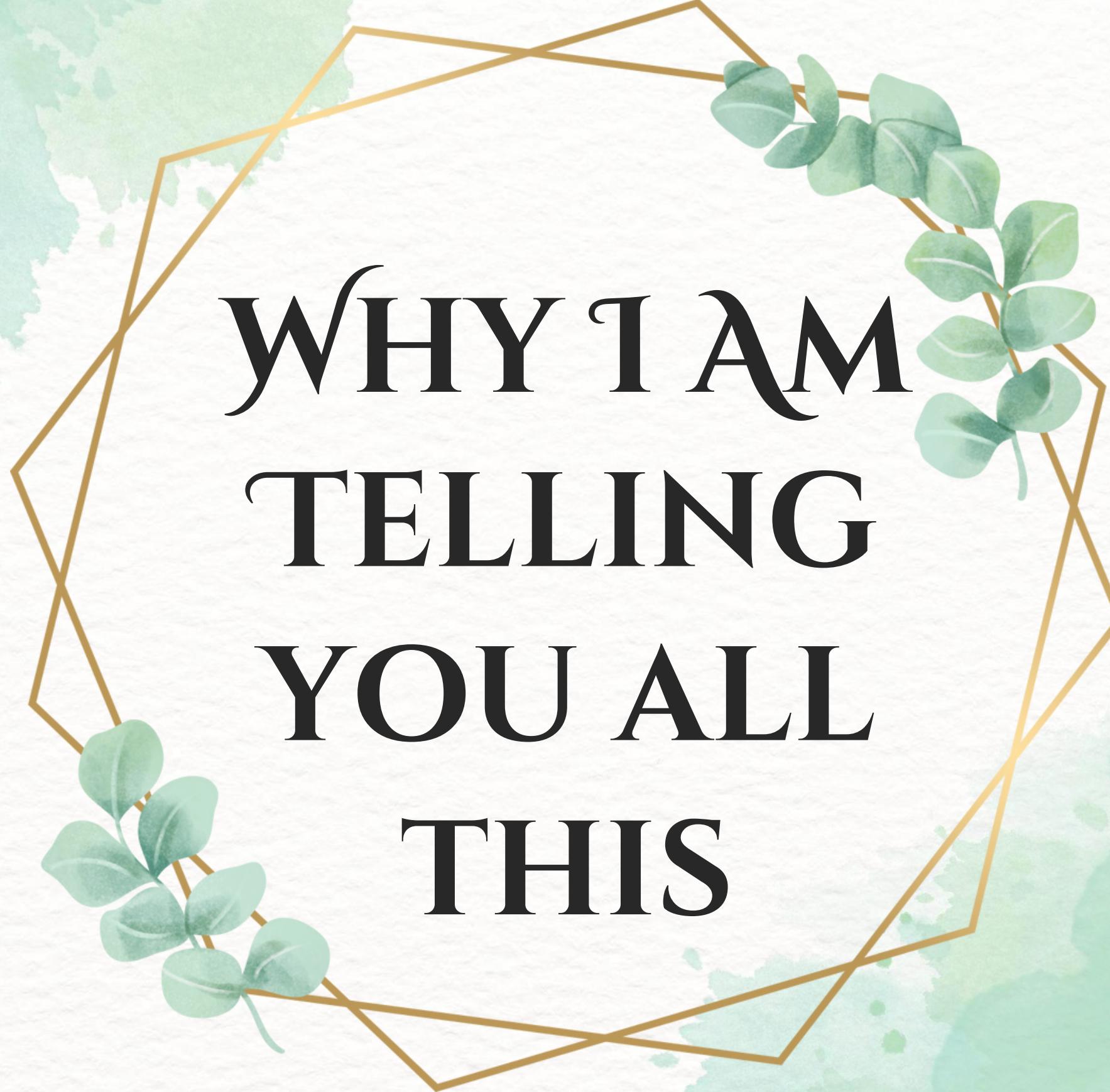
*Listen to your own advice here, Sophie!*



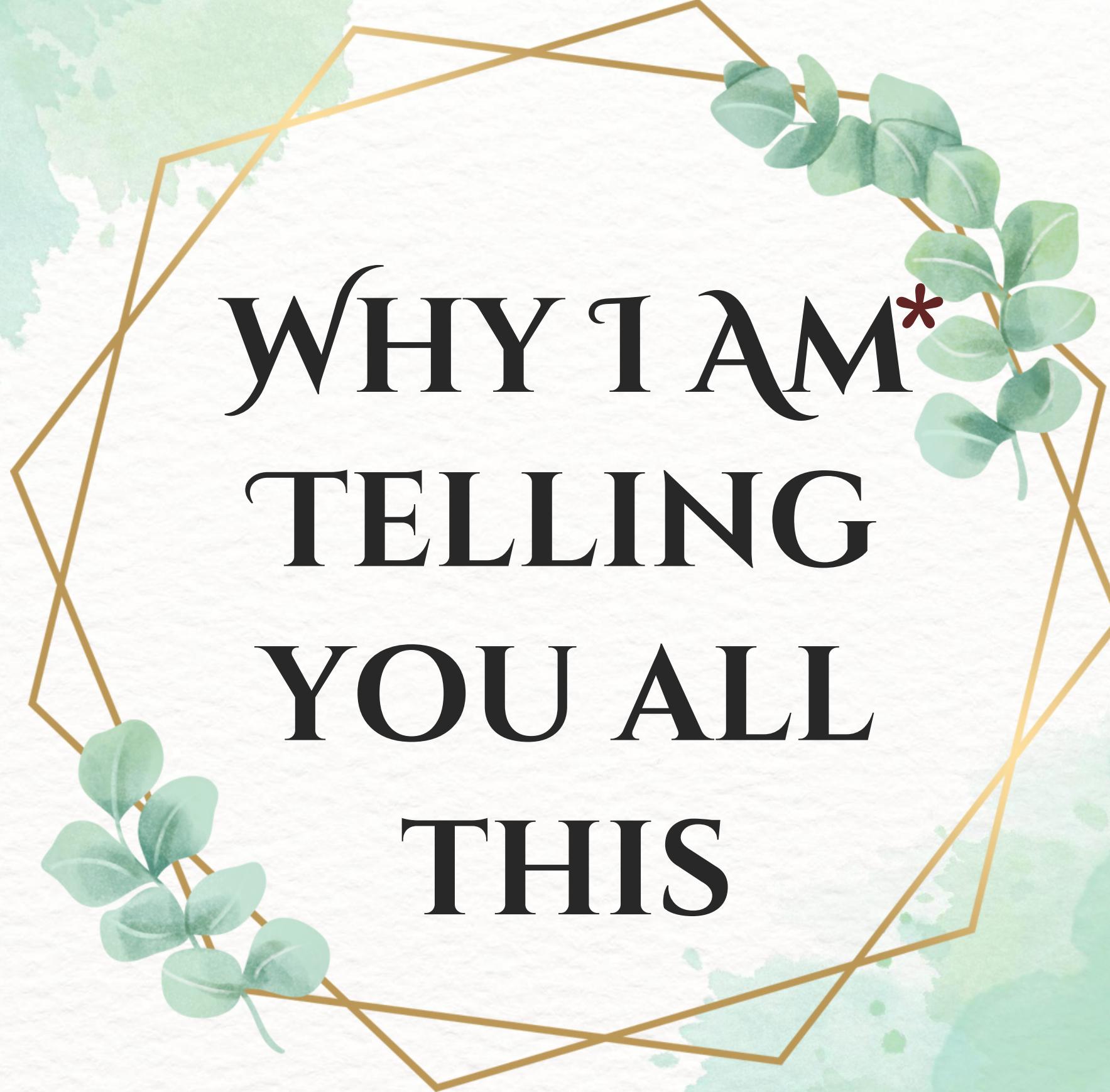
Be kind!



Be kind!  
(to yourself too!)



**WHY I AM  
TELLING  
YOU ALL  
THIS**



# WHY I AM\* TELLING YOU ALL THIS

\* still



Welcome to  
depression! I'll be  
your guide!



Bibbidy  
bobbedy  
boo..





Talking  
starts with  
me and  
you!

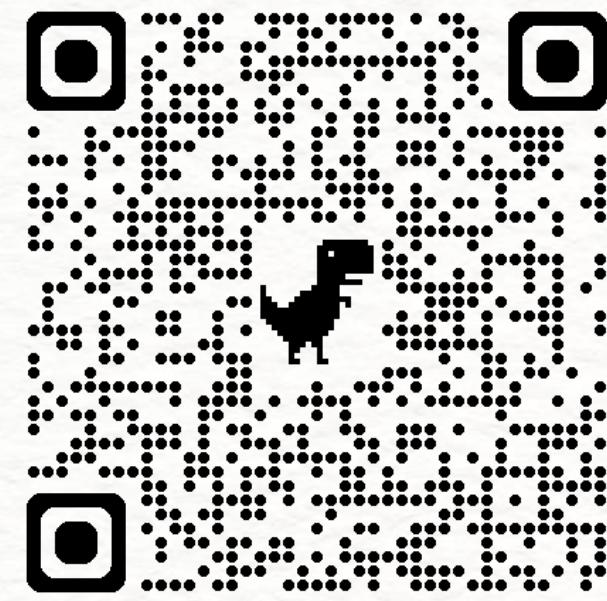




# THANK YOU!



# QUESTIONS?



Feedback!

Things that helped me



Get in touch!