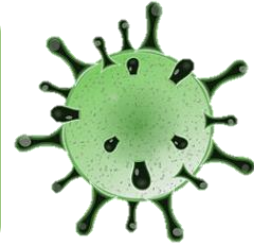

BETWEEN THE IDEA AND THE REALITY FALLS THE SHADOW

An unpleasant surprise. I'm not talking about "the surprise" that every single or *I only want to have fun* men fear (as if they had to get fat and carry another human being), I'm talking about one of the unexpected events 2020 brought: Covid-19. Although this time was different. It changed the daily life of everyone in the world, without concerning race, sexual orientation or economic status.



The week after Carnival. The first week after holiday, I would have had to take three tests: history, philosophy and chemistry. Easy to say I hadn't spent my last free four days before my final exam studying all day... don't get me wrong, I DID study, but not enough. So eventually an extra week was just what I needed.



Time. Days went by and my school stayed closed. My teachers started video-lessons and, my friends and I began to realise what was happening. Then I wished I took those tests.

Time. The lockdown lasted for two months in Italy. Two months without seeing my grandparents, two months without seeing my friends or my boyfriend, two months locked in my little home with my parents. Tell me who wouldn't go CRAZY.

I was scared, because my grandparents needed help, because they had to go grocery shopping and my grandmother has asthma, but she was the only one who could do it.

I was stressed, because I had to take an exam, but I hadn't seen my teachers in weeks. I didn't know if I had to take written exams or just the oral part. I didn't know the structure of my final exam because it kept on changing.

I was tired of being trapped in my own home, of spending hours in front of the computer, of feeling pain after working all day, of not being able to sleep, of arguing with my parents, of studying all day, of not seeing my friends.

Reality. However, I am one of the lucky ones. My family is healthy. All my teachers are helping me. I haven't spent months alone in an abusive environment. I haven't lost anyone due to Coronavirus yet. I am thankful for it. I cannot play the victim.
"Between the idea and the reality falls the Shadow." ~ T.S. Eliot