

FRANKIE: (On the phone, walking to the therapy room) I think I'm gonna drop out, Mum. I know. I know. It's been nearly 4 years and so much money. It's all I ever wanted to do but I have to face it. I can't do it. I think I just made someone worse. That is terrible. I am supposed to be helping. He was feeling bad when he came to see me and now he is feeling very bad. What? Has he got a wand? No. I said VERY. Not a FAIRY. Oh, Mum, it's not that difficult. How long have you been living in this country, speaking English? Look, I've got to go. It doesn't matter. I've got to get my case notes ready for my supervisor.

Frankie arrives at the room and sets up for the session.

FRANKIE: (Voiceover) Sometimes you have got to ask yourself – why bother trying to explain things to your mother? They never understand. They're from a different generation. And in my case - from a different country. Might as well be from a different planet. Why can't she be like other people's mothers? How does she still get things so wrong?

Fade to a therapy room with two chairs. Frankie is sitting on one of the chairs, Malik on the other.

MALIK: It's all I ever wanted to do and now I am failing.

FRANKIE: Oh I wouldn't call it failing.

MALIK: When I did my presentation last week, the students complained about me afterwards. They couldn't understand me.

FRANKIE: What were you presenting about?

MALIK: Orbital mechanics and thermodynamics.

FRANKIE: I don't think I'd understand that either.

MALIK: They are students of Theoretical Physics. I don't think the subject matter was the problem. The problem was me.

FRANKIE: No, I didn't mean...

MALIK: They couldn't understand my accent. That's what they were complaining about. Apparently I now have to do a special English class before I can submit my PhD. I'm going to fail my PhD. I know it. I wish I could speak English like you. Like a native.

FRANKIE: Oh I think you speak excellent English. You don't want to hear my mo...

MALIK: (Interrupting) I hate the way I speak. I wish I could tear out my stupid foreign sounding tongue.

FRANKIE: Tearing out your tongue. Malik, that's a really violent image