



PRIX EUROPA 2020 Best European Radio Documentary Series of the Year

Blackout - the Girl in the Photo Blackout

Comments from the Jury Group:

“Nice setup and disturbing story. Good use of sound. A very relevant topic, and a chilling story. The narration, the combination of off mic and on mic, makes the story very intimate and engaging.”

“I really like the way the story unfolds, the pace of the narrator’s voice and would be happy to listen to the entire series.”

“What a powerful testimony. What a horror, she lived.”

“The documentary invites further listening. Excellent elaboration of difficult topics, relevant and important.”

“Good rhythm, tense and emotional recollection of the event, the protagonists are very convincing, the listener is present and wants to hear more. Very good narration, quality minimalist audio solutions. Great finale, successfully completed documentary.”

What is it like to be young and have your photo taken against your will? How does it feel when that photo is of a sexual nature, and is then shared with others at your school and throughout your social network? And how does this infringing experience affect you many years later? The series tries to answer these questions.

It follows Sara Bjelke Refsbech as she attempts to make sense of what happened one fateful evening in 2014. That was when Sara held a big New Year’s Eve party, and where she got blind drunk. She had a blackout, and ends up remembering the evening only in glimpses. That night, two young men had sex with Sara, and one of them took a picture with his mobile. That photo and the story of a ‘fun’ New Year’s Eve were spread at Sara’s high school and in the small town where she lived and worked. Initially, Sara tried to laugh it off. Mainly because she did not know what else to do. But then, as the photo was shared more widely, Sara experienced increasing derision and shaming at school and on social media. Slowly, Sara disappeared into a deep black hole of disgust and self-loathing, remembering only a little of the subsequent time. After two hellish months, where her shame becomes all-consuming, Sara breaks down as once again she is called a whore. Only then do her parents and the police become involved in what becomes one of Denmark’s first lawsuits on image sharing without consent. In 2019, Sara still bears the mental scars from her trauma. To gain a greater understanding of herself, what actually happened that night and during the months after, she decides to make a podcast series.

Congratulations to:

Submitting organisation:	Danmarks Radio - DR
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Producer:	Rune Sparre Gertsen
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