



Speaking from Experience *Epilepsy Surgery*

Transcript for chapter 9 of 12: The big day

Sarah, 3 months after surgery, and mother Frances: Sarah was very positive before the operation that it would work, and when we left the house she actually said to her two sisters, “You’d better give me a kiss goodbye, because this is the last time you’re going to see me as an epileptic”.

Maree, 11 months after grid monitoring and surgery, and husband Rob: Going into the surgery was just another one of the fascinating steps of it all, I suppose.

Sarah, 3 months after surgery, and mother Frances: I felt nervous. I wasn’t nervous at the beginning, but then when I was asked to go into the theatre, I was nervous.

Maree and Rob: It came to that morning and I was taken down and I remember I was having conversations with everyone that was taking part in it.

Sarah and Frances: I was actually ok. It was the week before I was a mess. But once the day came I think I felt it really wasn’t happening. This was happening to somebody else.

Denise and Frank's son, Luc, had surgery 1 year ago: That moment, when he’d just been taken away into the theatre and we said goodbye to him that was the worst. That was the worst point of the whole time of before the operation, after the operation. It was the worst point. That we were leaving him and thinking, are we doing the right thing here? It was just terrible. Just for about 10 minutes, wasn’t it?

Denise and Frank: Yeah.

Denise and Frank: It was really scary.

Sarah and Frances: The day before surgery, I actually plaited Sarah’s hair in a whole heap of little plaits. Because Sarah was worried about how much hair they were going to shave off. So I sort of, it took me hours to do and that took my mind off it.

Louise, 9 months after surgery: Mum and dad were the last ones to see me and they were just bawling their eyes out and I was thinking, Oh god, what have I done? [laughs] I was thinking that this is something big for someone who has to be a part of the audience. This would be hard to look on, to watch your daughter go in for an operation on the brain.