The Untold Truth Of Greta Thunberg

(From an article by A. C. Grimes/Sept. 27, 2019)

Anyone who's listened to Greta Thunberg probably knows that she'll tell you, "I don't want you to listen to me, I want you to listen to the scientists." Thunberg has been listening to climate scientists since age 8, according to the Guardian. Stunned by the apparent indifference of adults and consumed by concerns about the future, she later fell into a deep depression.

It's important to note that Thunberg has Asperger's syndrome, an autism spectrum disorder often characterized by social awkwardness, difficulty interpreting social cues, and an obsessive preoccupation with a particular interest. As Thunberg put it, "I overthink. Some people can just let things go, but I can't." In school, videos of starving polar bears and pollution reduced her to tears. Devastated by the world's disastrous trajectory, she stopped going to school and even stopped eating. She recalled in an interview, "I almost starved to death."

Eventually, Thunberg concluded that "the best medicine against that concern and sadness is to do something about it, to try to make a change." She started by convincing her parents to become more climate-conscious. She bombarded them with graphs, got them to watch documentaries, and read books. "I made them feel so guilty," she said. And little by little, it worked. Thunberg's mother, a popular opera singer, ultimately quit traveling by plane and her father became a vegetarian.