

Assignment 3 Comic Script: The Invisible Weight

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June 22, 2026

THE INVISIBLE WEIGHT

Theme: Stress and anxiety do not disappear, but seeking support makes them manageable.

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Panel 1

Wide shot of a busy university campus. Students laugh and rush between classes. Paige walks alone, carrying a backpack.

Caption:

September.

Caption:

A new semester begins.

Panel 2

Paige walks confidently across campus. Her dark blue wavy hair and circular glasses stand out.

Paige (thought):

This semester is going to be different.

Panel 3

Close-up of Paige's phone calendar. Classes, assignments, work shifts, and reminders fill the screen.

Caption:

Five courses.

Caption:

Twenty hours of work every week.

Panel 4

A tiny shadowy figure with glowing eyes appears behind Paige. She doesn't notice it.

Caption:

At first, the weight is barely noticeable.

Panel 5

Lecture hall. Paige takes notes while the professor speaks. The Shadow sits quietly beside her.

Professor:

This course moves quickly. Keep up with the readings.

Panel 6

Paige works at a coffee shop after class.

Manager:

Can you stay an extra hour tonight?

Paige:

Sure.

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Panel 7

Late at night. Paige studies alone. Books and notes cover her desk. Shadow sitting by her side.

SFX:

TAP TAP TAP

Panel 8

The Shadow grows and moves closer to Paige.

Shadow:

You're already behind.

Panel 9

Paige has fallen asleep at her desk. Her alarm goes off

SFX:

BEEP! BEEP! BEEP!

Panel 10

She rushes across campus appearing exhausted.

Caption:

Three hours of sleep.

Panel 11

Professor writes "MIDTERM EXAM" on the board. Shadow is sitting beside Paige.

Professor:

The midterm is worth twenty-five percent of your final grade.

Panel 12

The Shadow moves closer to Paige, leaning towards her.

Shadow:

You're not ready.

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Panel 13

Paige sits alone in the library. Her phone lights up.

Text from Mike:

Movie night tonight?

Panel 14

Paige looks at unfinished work beside her.

Paige text:

Sorry. Too much work. I don't think I can make it tonight.

Panel 15

The Shadow grins while Paige returns to studying.

Shadow:

Good choice.

Panel 16

Montage panel. Clocks, assignments, work schedules, and notifications surround Paige.

Caption:

Days blur together.

Panel 17

The professor returns midterm exams to the class.

Panel 18

Close-up of Paige holding the midterm paper.

Paige (thought):

I worked so hard...

Paige (thought):

Why did I only get a 62?

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Panel 19

The Shadow towers over her, filling most of the panel.

Shadow:

Everyone else seems to have it figured out.

Panel 20

Paige sits alone on a hallway bench while students pass by.

Caption:

The weight becomes impossible to ignore.

Panel 21

Mike notices Paige sitting alone and approaches her.

Mike:

Paige... you've looked exhausted for weeks.

Panel 22

Paige looks up with tears in her eyes.

Paige:

I feel like I'm drowning.

Panel 23

Mike sits beside her and listens.

Paige:

No matter how hard I work, I can't keep up.

Mike:

You don't have to carry everything by yourself.

Mike:

Maybe we can make a schedule together. Break things down into smaller pieces.

Mike:

You don't have to do this alone.

Panel 24

A few weeks later. Paige and Mike walk across campus together. Paige carries her sketchbook and smiles. The Shadow follows behind, now tiny enough to fit inside her backpack.

Caption:

The weight never completely disappeared.

Paige (thought):

It's still there.

Caption:

But I learned I don't have to carry it alone.

THE END