The Testing of Fear

Dan Billing

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The oldest and strongest
motion of mankind is fear,
nd the oldest and stronges
ind of fear is fear of the
nknown"

P Lovecraft: Supernatural

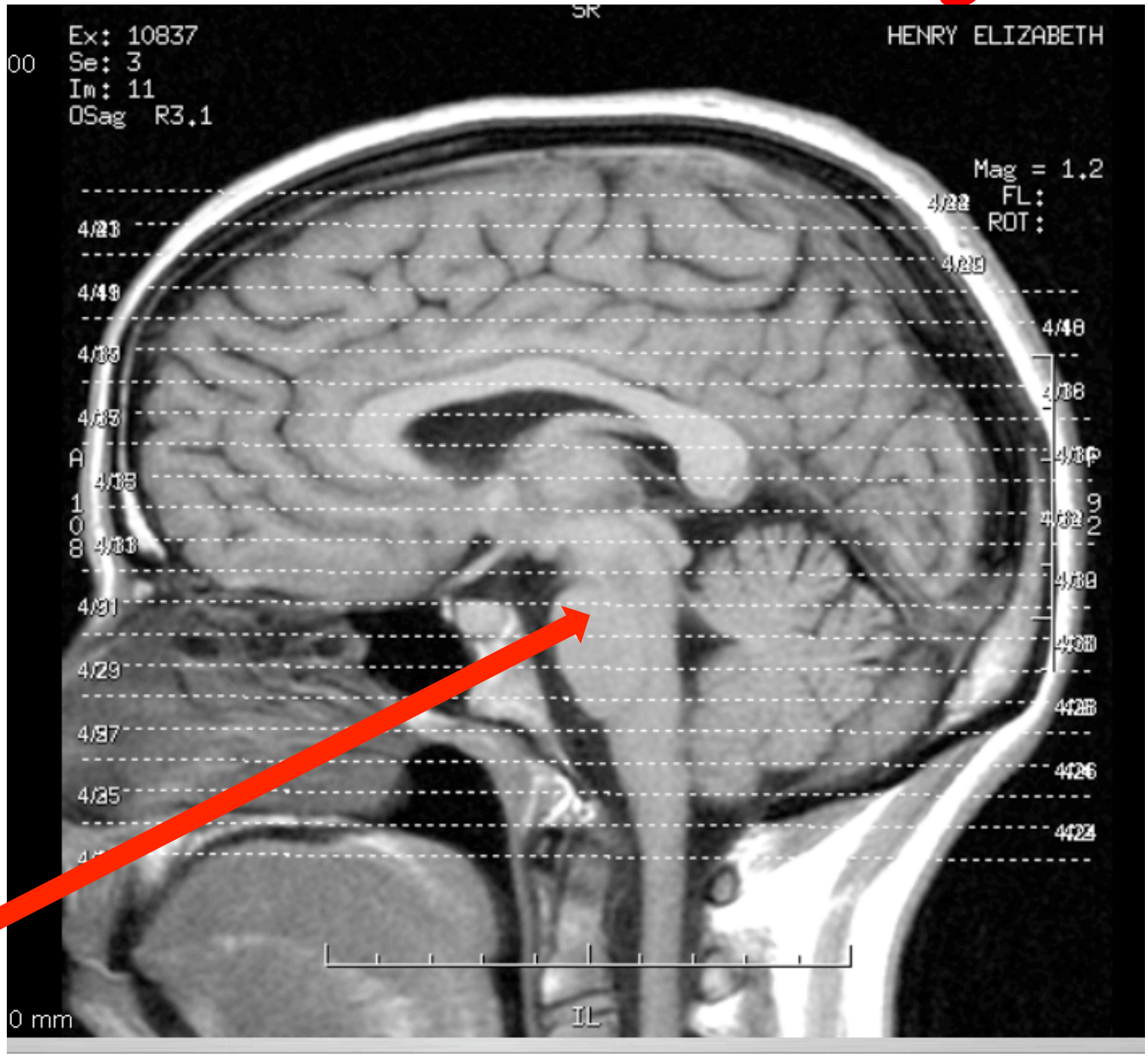
What are you afraid of?

1. Think about your greatest fear
2. Write or draw something that represents that fear
3. Hold it up and SHARE!

cubs

cubs
cubs

Fear and the body



ygdala

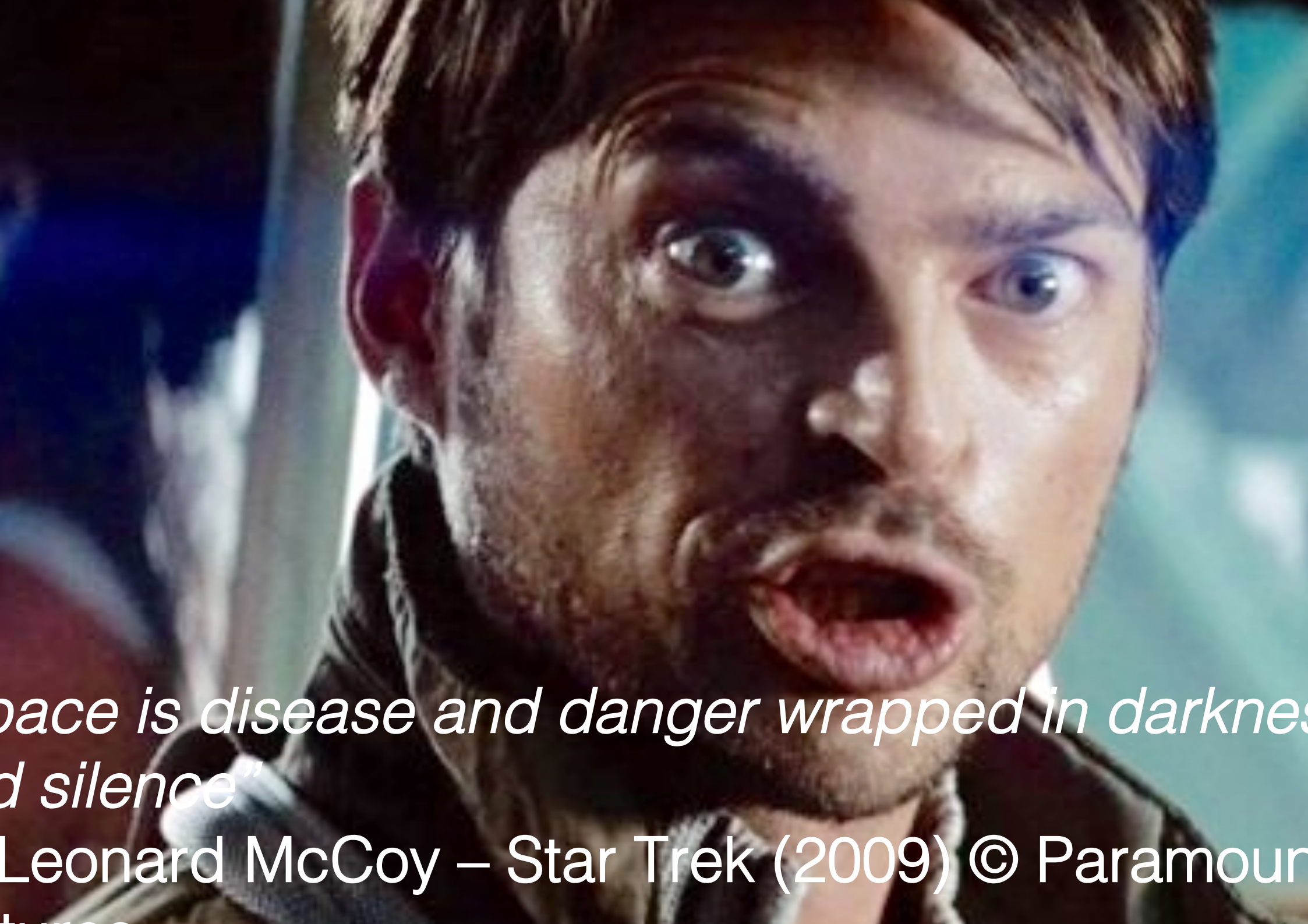
Fight or flight?

Do we run away from our fears?
Do we fight them?

...or do we learn from them?

Fear as a tool

- Honing instincts
- Managing threats
- Acquiring skills
- Identifying goals
- Achieving targets



pace is disease and danger wrapped in darkne
d silence"
Leonard McCoy – Star Trek (2009) © Paramoun

...to stay calm in a high tress, high stakes nvironment , all you really eed is knowledge."

hris Hadfield:

n Astronauts Guide to Life

Fear and context

- Testing is a HUMAN activity
- Testing requires interaction with products, processes AND people
- Testing activities WILL trigger emotional responses including fear
- We CANNOT test without utilising both emotional and rational responses to stimuli

"Testers use their emotions, but we think critically about them as well"

Michael Bolton

Finding bugs…in me!

Prickly, hot skin

Raised heart rate

Overreaction

Inappropriate feedback

Objectivity

- Context switching
- Lack of concentration
- Frustration
- Lack of clarity
- Influence

People have an emotional
nvestment in not finding ou
vhen they have made
nistakes."

Gerry Weinberg: Perfect
oftware and other Illusions

ommunication barrier

A tester's vain attempt to make their bug stand out in the next bug triage meeting

Nightmare scenario

Acknowledgements

Bill Matthews
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Emma Armstrong

Thank you!

ny Questions?

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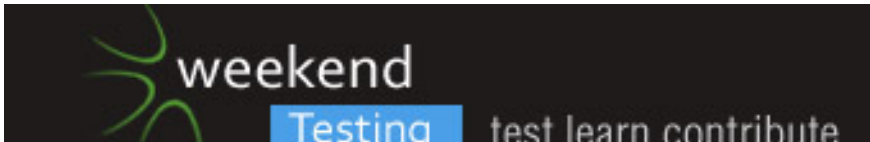
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