



## Screen Treatment

*False Awakening*, by  
Arianna M. Fox

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Book Trailer Link on YouTube: [https://youtu.be/QRARmEy\\_ww8](https://youtu.be/QRARmEy_ww8)

YouTube about Arianna Fox, 13 YO Girl Speaker, Teen Preneur: <https://ariannafox.com/falseawakening/>

### Registration Details:

**WGAW Screen Treatment Registration #: 2074756**

**Genre:** Young Adult Fantasy, Fiction

**Logline:** *The Matrix* (Keanu Reeves) meets *Inception* (Leonardo DiCaprio) Is it a Dream or Reality?

### Summary:

Seemingly an ordinary man, Chris Coleman is trapped in a dream within a dream within a dream. Erik Kane, CEO of New World Corp. and politician, seeks world domination. Taryn Johnson, a Rebellion soldier, is dedicated to protecting the world from Kane's insidious plan.

When Taryn abducts Chris and tells him he has a secret power inside of him – the power to manipulate dreams and, in turn, manipulate reality – he doesn't believe her. At least not until he stops a moving car with his own hands in a dream ... and it affected his reality.

As Chris manipulates his dream world to help the Rebellion stop Erik Kane, the lines blur between dreams and realities. Chris journeys through multiple realities, travels through mind-bending dreams, encounters close calls, twists and turns, and experiences false awakenings.

## **Reviewer Comments:**

“5 stars! ‘ *The Matrix* meets ‘ meets *Inception*. This book cannot help but grab your attention from beginning to end. Every time I think I know what is going on or what is coming next, another twist gets thrown at me and I’m left on the hunt again! Make sure you have time to read this cover to cover, as once you pick it up, you won’t be able to rest until you finish. It’s been a long time since a book has kept my attention like this. Well done!” – Jaime Goss

“Was this book really written by a 12-year-old? It is well-written for someone so young. Adding the reporter angle to the story adds a very mature aspect to the writing. The book is very descriptive and holds the reader's attention.” – Barbara Eichenholz

“Reading this book was an amazing journey! With twists and turns, and epic crazy dreams! I couldn't put it down! Definitely a page-turner! Great job to this amazing young author!” – Sherri Wells

“Imaginative and mysterious thriller! A dreamscape freefall with action galore! My kind of read!” – Gabriel Dill

“This book is truly unique, with interesting nods to other sci-fi works and plenty of twists and turns to keep you on your toes!” – Danielle Fleshman

## **Protagonists:**

**Chris Coleman:** Caucasian and 30 years old, is the main character and protagonist of the book. He has the ability to control his dreams and, in turn, control reality.

**Taryn Johnson:** tan-skinned and in her mid-twenties, is the deuteragonist of the book. She is loyal to the Rebellion against Erik Kane along with his company New World Corp. and loyal to all soldiers who she fights alongside. She can be hardheaded and stubborn sometimes, but she knows what is right and what she’s fighting for.

**Peter Wan:** Asian-American and in his mid-thirties, is the comic relief character, founder of the Rebellion, and also the backbone of it. He fought with the Rebellion since the beginning and was the one to recruit Taryn Johnson. He is very quirky and has a great sense of humor (thus his being the comic relief character of the book). Although he is lighthearted and fun, he also knows when to be serious, to take matters into his own hands, and to fight a battle against New World Corp.

**Shang:** Asian and 82 years old, is an old yet experienced lucid dreamer who can control his dreams like Chris, with the exception that he can’t make his dreams control his *reality* (he can teleport in a dream and wake up in that location in reality, however). He is the adopted brother of one of the main antagonists, Viala, but she turned evil. Shang is faithful, witty, and still has a child’s heart yet an experienced mind.

**Reina Drake,** African-American and in her mid-twenties, is a supporting character who is loyal to the Rebellion, even though she is very new. Although some of the trials of war are hard to process for her, she has an alert mind and is loyal to the cause.

**Joseph Williams**, Caucasian and in his mid-twenties, is a supporting character who is sarcastic and sharp-witted, but also deeply loyal to the Rebellion. He is often seen on duty alongside Reina Drake.

### Antagonists:

**Erik Kane**, Caucasian and in his mid-twenties, is the main antagonist of the story, who turns into a sort of secondary antagonist later on in the book. His father's power and business skills live on in Erik Kane, and he is just as determined as his father to rule the world and seek power wherever he can find it.

**New World Corp**, the entity/business of the main antagonist, Erik Kane. It is short for New World Corporation and was started by Erik's father, Dominic Kane, when it was still called "World Corp." Dominic Kane killed Chris's father, along with many other innocent people, and desired to rule the world but the Rebellion defeated him first. However, Dominic's power and business skills live on in his son Erik, and Erik is just as determined as his father to rule the world and seek power wherever he can find it. New World Corp. is the entity that he revitalized to help his power grow.

**Viala**, African-American and 79 years old (even though she looks like she is in her mid-twenties), is the other main antagonist that is discovered about halfway through the book. Her real name is Jemisha, and she is the adopted sister of Shang but turned evil after being consumed by the power that she possesses – the same power as Chris Coleman: the power to control her dreams, and in turn, control her reality.

### Locations/Settings:

**Chicago, IL, USA** – After the initial opening dream located in an odd mansion, Chris's house is located in Chicago, Illinois, as well as the engineering facility that he works at.

**Kathmandu, Nepal** (and the Himalayas) – Chris is abducted by Taryn Johnson. She, meaning no harm, makes conversation with him and tells him of his secret – the secret of controlling dreams and, in doing so, manipulating reality. She also tells him that his father did not die in a car accident, as he was told – he died serving the Rebellion, fighting against Erik Kane's father, Dominic Kane. Taryn tells Chris of the Rebellion, of Erik Kane's insidious plan to rule the world and cause global chaos – but instead of believing her and coming with her, Chris rejects what she tells him and runs away. The majority of the story (including some of the fights with New World Corp. and the Rebellion) is in different locations in Nepal, including the Rebellion base in the Himalayas and the Nepal hospital on solid ground.

**New York City, NY, USA** – Erik Kane is proudly announcing the grand opening of his new building for New World Corp., a business originally called "World Corp." that Erik now inherits from his father. In addition to the announcement of the grand opening, he is also announcing his candidacy for President of the United States – when suddenly, someone asks a weighted question that throws his entire speech off. He is later seen with his bodyguard and a senator in a "designer" hotel in New York. Taryn and Peter also invade the New World Corp. office later on (little do they know they're in a dream).

**Dream 1** – Chris has a dream that he is in a warzone/battlefield at a dig site. It is unclear where the dig site is, but it is the same dig site where Taryn Johnson fought against World Corp. soldiers when she was just recruited into the Rebellion.

**Dream 2** – Shang, a wise lucid dreamer, takes Chris to a dream world he calls “*The Dreamscape*.” In the Dreamscape is a street he named “*N. Sueño St.*” (*Sueño* means *dream* in Spanish), and a bridge called “*Sueño Bridge*.” Shang trains Chris there.

**Dream 3** – in the final battle, Chris and Shang go back into the Dreamscape and fight Viala, a powerful dream master who can control realities like Chris. It is again unclear where the location is, but they are in a barren desert with sand-dunes at sunset. There are also a few caves carved out of the rock, similar to the Atlas Mountains in Algeria.

## Act 1 – The Setup

Chris Coleman is an ordinary man who works at Go Engineering in Chicago. He has friends at work and is generally content with his life. The only problem? False awakenings. He has been experiencing extremely realistic dreams (although he never knows he was *in* the dream until he wakes up), and then wakes up sweating and wonders if the dream was real or not. It is just a normal thing for him, though, so he gets up, goes to work, and goes through all the motions of life as he tries to forget that they ever happened.

But one day, as he is on his way to work, he feels nauseous. He feels as if his world is spinning around him, and he is stuck in the corner, like on a Gravitron ride. And just when he thought he could not take it any longer, he wakes up.

Paranoid yet frustrated, and now certain he is in reality, he again drives to work, but he still feels nauseous. Even more paranoid that he will once again wake up, he recalls the inspiring words his father said to him long ago before he passed away, and Chris arrives at his workplace unharmed.

When he arrives, however, he notices a new woman working on a drone that has not been seen there before. He asks his friends, Remy Walker and Tanner Wilson, about it, but they have no idea what he is talking about. When he shows them where he saw the woman, she is no longer there. His friends laugh and tease that he’s “*got a new imaginary friend.*” But then he sees her again, and his world starts to spin once more. The only thing the woman repeats, over and over, is, “*I need your help!*” And then Chris blacks out.

When he wakes up, one of his coworkers, Evangelina “Eva” Garrett, makes conversation with him and appears to be comforting him and telling him he blacked out. But then she shoots him with a tranquilizer gun, and the next thing Chris knows, he is in a bed in a one-room hut. A woman is sitting at a desk, and when she turns around, Chris notices that she is the woman from his dreams. Curious yet cautious, he listens to what the woman, who introduces herself as Taryn Johnson, tells him.

She first tells him about Erik Kane, who is known by Chris as simply the “*billionaire businessman,*” and his plan of ruling and then ruining the world, just as his father, Dominic Kane, had almost started to achieve.

Taryn then goes on to explain that Chris has a secret power – a power to control his dreams, and in return, control his reality – and that his father, who Chris thought died in a car accident, really died fighting in the Rebellion against Erik Kane’s father Dominic. Taryn is certain Chris is just the asset the Rebellion needs to stop Kane once and for all. So she ends it all with a recruitment request and a plea for

assistance: “*Will you help us?*”

But even after all was explained and truth disclosed, Chris still refuses to help her, believing he does not have any secret, power, or gift.

## Act 2-The Conflict

After Chris refuses her plea, Taryn offers to take Chris back to the United States. There, it dawns on Chris that he is not in the US. When he opens the door and steps outside, he realizes he is on the peak of a Himalayan mountain, in Nepal.

Taryn explains that the Rebellion knows what has been happening to Chris with his false awakenings and dreams inside of dreams. She explains that every time she tries to reach Chris, New World Corp. stops her from reaching him, and they figuratively “*pull the plug*” in Chris’s brain, making him “*start over again.*”

After prompting by Chris, she then goes on to explain what made her join the Rebellion in the first place. After listening to Taryn’s story, they descend the mountain and Chris makes his way into an airport – but before he can embark on the plane, Taryn forces Chris to go with her to a local hospital. Unbeknownst to Chris, Taryn has followed him from the base of the mountain to the airport where she noticed an NWC soldier about to assail Chris. Little does Chris know that Taryn saved his life before when Eva Garrett shot him with a tranquilizer gun Taryn fought Eva off and moved him to safety in Nepal.

Chris wakes up in a hospital room, and Taryn explains to him that some of the Rebellion fighters are wary of him, that maybe he’s a spy from Kane, or maybe he doesn’t know the secret Taryn talks of. After actually answering one of his questions, he wonders if maybe he should believe her after all. She leaves the room and a few minutes later, he does too, his curiosity getting the better of him. He sees a receptionist behind the front desk. Chris studies the visitors’ clipboard while the receptionist is on the phone, and he notices that Taryn’s name as visiting a Peter Wan.

After the receptionist is off the phone, she talks to Chris and introduces herself as Tina Salazar. Little does Chris know she is a Rebellion soldier, and that this hospital has been taken over by the Rebellion.

Then, Taryn comes into the lobby and leads him into another hospital room to meet Peter Wan – the founder, backbone, and jokester of the Resistance. He had been severely injured, which is why he is in the hospital, but he is still able to have a conversation with Taryn and Chris. After Taryn again persists on Chris becoming a recruit and fighting for the Rebellion, Chris once again objects and demands to go back home. Taryn and Peter reluctantly let him go, on the condition that he doesn’t tell anyone what happened or why Taryn kidnapped him.

Meanwhile, Erik Kane is in New York City, proud and excited to announce the grand opening of his new building for New World Corp., and also at the same time to announce his candidacy for President of the United States. However, one personal question (“*Who is Jon Penn?*”) answered wrongly (“*I think he’s a traitor and a very evil person*”) bombs the entire speech, and he goes back into his hotel room with his bodyguard Tom and broods over the disaster – until the woman who asked the question (who happens to be a US senator) requests to see Erik Kane. Kane unwillingly goes down into the lobby

and talks with the senator, Lynn Baker, before she reveals one of his most haunting secrets: “Jon Penn” is Erik Kane’s brother.

Meanwhile, Chris finally arrives home, but finds he is without a job because of the betrayal of Eva Garrett, and will soon plummet into financial debt and loss if he doesn’t find another job. When finally sleeping in his own bed for once, he dreams that he is in a warzone with Taryn. She shouts to Chris, “We need your help! Come back, Chris. We need you. Come back to the hospital in Nepal.”

Meanwhile, Taryn and Peter are confronted with the emergence of three New World Corp. cars outside the hospital with flashing lights. Taryn and Peter know they will begin to search the building, so they take matters into their own hands and contact the Rebellion base, calling for backup.

Back to Erik Kane – once Senator Lynn Baker leaves, Tom ends up confronting Kane and they get into a heated argument. Tom leaves and Erik gets an emergency alert on his phone that claims the NWC Comms. Center has been breached. Although the reader does not know it yet, the two Rebellion members that breached the Comms. Center and acquired valuable information about NWC and their tracking systems were Reina Drake and Joseph Williams.

Next in Chicago, Chris Coleman takes a jog around the neighborhood. He stops at a bus stop and notices an African-American woman on her phone, sitting on the bench (she seems like a regular person, but she is Reina Drake). She leaves her phone there as a tracking device and hopes he will pick it up and attempt to return it to its owner.

Back to Taryn and Peter in Nepal – things aren’t going very well for these two Rebellion members. New World Corp. soldiers are searching the hospital and have already killed the “receptionist,” Tina Salazar. To make matters worse, Kane clipped a cynical note to the bottom of Tina’s dress, clearly not caring whom he killed and whom he spared.

Meanwhile, Chris Coleman finally decides upon calling the hospital in Nepal. His dream and strong feelings have finally started to influence him to contemplate helping the Rebellion and possibly give what Taryn referred to as the “*dream thing*” another shot. However, with a dead receptionist and two hiding Rebellion soldiers, no one picks up the phone. Chris wonders what is happening and if this hospital-turned-Rebellion-base and its visitors are in danger.

Back at the hospital – Taryn Johnson, furious at Erik Kane for his cruelty, yet still trying to be cautious, she hides with Peter Wan behind the front desk. However, one of the New World Corp. officers sees Taryn and Peter and beats them up. They get into a small fight; however, the New World Corp. officer appears to be winning. As they fight, Taryn realizes that the officer is Lieutenant Samuel Ruperts – the same lieutenant that killed Taryn’s close friend long ago.

Meanwhile, Chris receiving no answer decides to go to the grocery store – but on the freeway, a black NWC Sedan swerves into Chris’s lane, right about to hit his car. He isn’t ready to die. He flings his hands in front of him, and the Sedan stops – but even more astonishing, the Sedan is on its front tires and the back of the car is five feet in the air. It’s as if it was doing a wheelie but in reverse. Completely astonished, shocked, and surprised, Chris realizes he controlled his fate...and then he wakes up. However, little does he know, that dream impacted reality.

He goes back to sleep again, and dreams about that same freeway, in that same car, and his hands in that same position. He lowers his hands and the back of the Sedan drop, evening the car out. He had

created a traffic jam on the freeway. As he gets out of the car and looks around, he hears a voice telling him, “Chris, get in – quick!”

Chris swerves around and notices the African-American woman from the bus stop, the one who was on her phone. Reina Drake, the Rebellion soldier. Reina floors the gas pedal and drives Chris far away from the whole incident, explaining on the way that NWC cars were about to kill Chris.

Meanwhile, Taryn is still in a bad position – as is the already-injured Peter Wan. Taryn flashes back to the memory of her friend and mentor in the Rebellion.

Back to Reina and Chris – Reina stops the car and tells Chris that he is in a dream and that he needs to teleport to the hospital and help the Rebellion members. If he teleports in his dream, Reina says, he will teleport there in real life. Confused, Chris does as Reina says and teleports to the hospital. He finds the lieutenant, knocks him on the back of the head with a fire extinguisher, and the three Rebellion soldiers all fight off as many NWC soldiers before escaping.

Once outside, they run to the back of the hospital and hide behind a dumpster, waiting for backup. Then Chris has an idea: go into a dream and defeat the officer that’s coming right around the corner. He closes his eyes, lets himself drift off, and ends up freezing time, grabbing the NWC officer’s gun, and shoots him. He opens his eyes and is shocked to find out that the officer is dead in real life. He’s never killed someone before, and he certainly does not want to.

Finally, after a long time of waiting, the helicopter with backup arrives, and the injured Rebellion soldiers limp into the chopper. Although Taryn and Peter are curious and confused as to how Chris got to the hospital just in the nick of time, and how an NWC officer seemingly dropped dead out of nowhere, they keep their mouths shut until Taryn explains to Chris about what the mysterious “secret” really is, and explains that Chris’s father had the same ability – the ability to manipulate dreams and, in turn, manipulate reality. Then Taryn goes on to explain that Erik Kane is not the only enemy they are trying to defeat – there is one greater and more powerful than Kane by the name of “Viala.” She is, like Chris, a dream master and can manipulate reality by manipulating her dreams – but she has let the power consume her and has turned evil, wanting to rule the world and using Kane as a pawn to do so. What she doesn’t realize is that Kane has the same true ambition as she.

Finally, they arrive at the Rebellion base and Taryn educates him on the mountain base and shows him to his quarters.

### **Act 3-The Resolution**

Peter Wan wakes Chris up in the middle of the night, telling him to follow him. (Little does Chris know that this is a dream.) Chris follows Peter and trains him by asking Chris to knock a punching bag back by just focusing. Chris, instead, stretches his hands and explodes the punching bag. Peter is astounded but also concerned – if he told him to knock it back but Chris exploded it instead, it shows he doesn’t have full control of his dreams.

Chris then has another dream that something Taryn isn’t doing well. He wakes up and Peter once again tells him it’s time for training. Peter tells Chris to fall asleep; Chris does so and sees Peter. Peter tells Chris that he is about to face his greatest fear ... and behind Chris just so happens to be Erik Kane.

Chris turns around, and the cocky, arrogant Kane threatens him and jests about the death of

Chris's father. Chris wants to run, to hide, to fight Kane – but the only thing he can do is stand still and endure the threats Kane issues on him.

Then Chris realizes he is in a dream, and that means he can do anything. *He* has power here. He freezes time just like he did back at the hospital in Nepal, and almost kills Kane, but then he begins to feel dizzy as a kaleidoscope of voices flutters about in his mind. He hears Taryn say, “*Chris. Chris, wake up.*”

As he almost starts to wake up, he realizes time sped up again and now Erik Kane is on the other side of the mountain peak, stabbing Peter Wan with a knife.

Chris wakes up and realizes that he influenced reality: Peter is dying in real life, just as he was in the dream. (Although Erik Kane can't manipulate reality, Chris can, and he dreamed that Kane did that, so it impacted Peter in reality.)

Chris decides the only solution is going back into the dream world to heal Peter. As he falls back to sleep and “wakes up” in the dream world, he now realizes why he wants to join the Rebellion after seeing Kane's cruelty firsthand and accepting the truth that his father died trying to stop Erik's father Dominic. Then he heals Peter, wakes up, and sees that Peter is healed in the real world.

The Rebellion decides it is time for Chris to finally meet one of the Rebellion's most faithful members, Shang. He lives in a mountain hut – as he was once a mountain climber and even climbed Mount Everest twice – and was the one who told the Rebellion about an old, abandoned, built-to-last research facility that could be used as a base.

After going inside Shang's hut, Shang trains Chris and shows him “The Dreamscape.” Chris bends the dream by making the streets zigzag and twisting Sueño Bridge into loops.

After that, Chris, Peter, Taryn, and Reina storm the New World Corp. building (little do they know they are in a dream) and kill Kane (but it does not affect reality). Viala is seen, however, and imitates Taryn, making it hard for Peter to know which one is the real Taryn. He asks a series of questions, and the fake Taryn answers all but the last one correctly, so Peter knows which one is Viala. However, she disappears before Peter could shoot her.

Chris wakes up on Shang's lawn and realizes the real Erik Kane is right above him, taunting him yet again – but this time for real. He escapes and meets Shang; Shang takes Chris into the Dreamscape, where Chris defeats Viala. (However, she still survives as is seen in the Epilogue.) Meanwhile, Taryn and Peter defeat Erik Kane after a long showdown with NWC soldiers.

After defeating Viala, Chris Coleman is injured, but not fatally, and is taken to the Nepal hospital. Taryn announces they will no longer be a “Rebellion,” as there is nothing to rebel against. Instead, they will be the Coalition of Guardians, helping others in need.



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Arianna M. Fox is a motivational and inspirational speaker, award-winning author, girl entrepreneur (also known as a girlpreneur), actress, voice-over talent, and teen influencer.

Known across the region as a little ball of joy and energy, Arianna Fox may come in a small package, but her ideas are as revolutionary as they are wide-reaching. For several years now, Arianna has devoted her life and much of her time to reaching out to others to spread messages of hope, inspiration, and self-confidence. Making a positive impact upon others and helping them rock their lives to maximum potential is part of this upcoming kidpreneur's goal for her interactions with kids, her fellow tweens, teens, adults, and all.