

ACT TWO

Scene 1

A cell. Michal sitting on a wooden chair, tapping his thighs, listening to the intermittent screams of his brother, Katurian, being tortured a room away. A blanket on a thin mattress and a pillow lie a few yards away.

MICHAL. "Once upon a time ... a long long way away ..."
(Katurian screams again. Michal mimics them at length, till they fade away.) "Once upon a time, a long long way away, there was a little green pig. There was a little green pig. Who was green. Um ..."
(Katurian screams again. Michal mimics till they fade, then gets up, idles around.) "Once upon a time, a long long way away, there was a little green pig ... " Or was it a long long way away? Where was it? *(Pause.)* Yes, it was a long long way away, and he was a little green pig ... *(Katurian screams. Michal mimics, irritated this time.)* Oh shut up, Katurian! Making me forget the little green pig story now with your screaming all over the place! *(Pause.)* And what did the little green pig do next? He ... he said to the man ... He said to the man, "Hello ... Man ... " *(Katurian screams. Michal just listens.)* Ah, I can't do stories like you do stories, anyway. I wish they'd hurry up and stop torturing ya. I'm bored. It's boring in here. I wish ... *(Sound of next-door room being unbolted. Michal listens. Michal's cell is unbolted and the bloody, breathless Katurian is thrown in by Ariel.)*
ARIEL. We'll be back to work on you in a minute. I'm getting my dinner. *(Michal gives him the thumbs-up. Ariel bolts the door behind him. Michal looks over Katurian, who is shivering on the floor, goes to caress his head, can't quite do it, and sits on the chair.)*
MICHAL. Hiya. *(Katurian looks up at him, crawls over and hugs Michal's leg. Michal stares down at him, feeling awkward.)* What are you doing?
KATURIAN. I'm holding on to your leg.
MICHAL. Oh. *(Pause.)* Why?

KATURIAN. I don't know, I'm in pain! Aren't I allowed to hold on to my brother's leg when I'm in pain?
MICHAL. Of course you are, Katurian. Just seems weird.
KATURIAN. *(Pause.)* How are you doing, anyway?
MICHAL. Great. Just a bit bored. Cor, you were making some racket. What were they doing, torturing ya?
KATURIAN. Yeah.
MICHAL. *(Tuts. Pause.)* Did it hurt? *(Katurian lets go of Michal's leg.)*
KATURIAN. If it didn't hurt, Michal, it wouldn't be torture, would it?
MICHAL. No, I suppose.
KATURIAN. Did yours hurt?
MICHAL. Did my what hurt?
KATURIAN. When they tortured you.
MICHAL. They didn't torture me.
KATURIAN. What? *(Katurian looks him over for the first time, seeing there are no cuts or bruises.)*
MICHAL. Oh, no, the man said he was going to torture me, but I thought, "No way, boy, that'd hurt," so I just told him whatever he wanted to hear, and he was fine then.
KATURIAN. But I heard you scream.
MICHAL. Yes. He asked me to scream. He said I did it really good.
KATURIAN. So he just told you what to say and you agreed to it?
MICHAL. Yeah.
KATURIAN. *(Pause.)* Swear to me on your life that you didn't kill those three kids.
MICHAL. I swear to you on my life that I didn't kill those three kids. *(Katurian breathes a sigh of relief, hugging Michal's leg again.)*
KATURIAN. Did you sign anything?
MICHAL. Huh? You know I can't sign nothing.
KATURIAN. Then maybe we can still get out of this.
MICHAL. Get out of what?
KATURIAN. Get out of being executed for killing three children, Michal.
MICHAL. Oh, get out of being executed for killing three children. That'd be good. How?
KATURIAN. The only thing they've got against us is what you've said, and the stuff they said they found in the house.
MICHAL. What stuff?
KATURIAN. They had this box full of toes. No, hang on. They said they were toes. They didn't look that much like toes. They