

Fear to Accept

Maddy Maloney

Characters

Captec (20)

His sister, Fera (17)

Time

A dimension of the present. The play begins shortly after the death of Solt, a friend who lived with Captec and Fera.

Set

A bare stage.

A note on the play

Each scene of the play is comprised of three sections which tell three different versions of a particular conversation. These are broken up by one of the characters saying 'STOP', which may be addressed to the other characters, but also works as a mechanism to stop the play itself. Whilst the text is repetitive, it is advised that the performance should bring out differences between the multiple versions of the conversations and offer the audience variety in how they see each scene. There are no further stage directions; the rest is left at the director's discretion.

CAPTEC	Fera?
FERA	Captec?
CAPTEC	What are you doing?
FERA	Nothing.
CAPTEC	What are you doing outside?
FERA	Reading.
CAPTEC	Why?
FERA	I like reading.
CAPTEC	Why outside?
FERA	I got locked out.
CAPTEC	How?
FERA	I was checking the post.

CAPTEC With your book?
FERA It was in my pocket.
CAPTEC We never get post.
FERA STOP

CAPTEC Fera?
FERA Captec ?
CAPTEC What are you doing?
FERA Nothing.
CAPTEC What are you doing outside?
FERA Reading.
CAPTEC Why?
FERA I like reading.
CAPTEC Why outside?
FERA I got locked out.
CAPTEC With your keys?
FERA What?
CAPTEC You keep your keys in your pocket.
FERA What?
CAPTEC Aren't your keys in your pocket?
FERA
CAPTEC They are, aren't they?
FERA I forgot.
CAPTEC Why are you outside?
FERA STOP

CAPTEC Fera?

FERA Captec ?

CAPTEC What are you doing?

FERA Nothing.

CAPTEC What are you doing outside?

FERA Reading.

CAPTEC Why?

FERA I like reading.

CAPTEC Why outside?

FERA I got locked out.

CAPTEC Why are you lying to me?

FERA I'm not.

CAPTEC Yes, you are! What are you doing outside? Why are you always sitting out here when I get home? It's bloody freezing. Come on, I want to know. Tell me, Fera. Why are you outside? You're going to make yourself ill.

FERA I am ill.

CAPTEC You'll get sick.

FERA STOP

CAPTEC I want to know.

FERA I want to know.

CAPTEC Tell me.

FERA You won't tell me.

CAPTEC Just tell me.

FERA No.

CAPTEC Fera, I'm worried.

FERA Don't be.

CAPTEC I'll call Mum and Dad.

FERA What?

CAPTEC If you don't talk, I'm going to call Mum and Dad.

FERA We don't have a Mum and Dad.

CAPTEC Fera.

FERA What?

CAPTEC Grow up.

FERA Why are you saying this? We said/

CAPTEC I know what we said - it was stupid.

FERA No, it wasn't.

CAPTEC Yes, it was.

FERA They betrayed us. They betrayed each other.

CAPTEC They divorced.

FERA Betrayed.

CAPTEC The love died.

FERA Love doesn't die.

CAPTEC Grow up.

FERA Stop saying that!

CAPTEC You're nearly 18 –why do you still care?

FERA You care too.

CAPTEC I did.

FERA What does my age have to do with it? You're 20 and you still care!

CAPTEC I don't.

FERA What?

CAPTEC I don't care anymore.

FERA How can you say that?

CAPTEC I just don't feel it anymore. Why does it matter? They divorced – so does everyone. I probably will.

FERA How can you say that?

CAPTEC It's in our nature.

FERA I won't.

CAPTEC How can you say that?

FERA I won't.

CAPTEC Tell me. Come on and tell me.

FERA Tell you what?

CAPTEC You know.

FERA I don't.

CAPTEC I know what the answer is anyway. I just want to hear you say it.

FERA What are you talking about?

CAPTEC Why do you keep sitting outside?

FERA STOP

CAPTEC I want to know.

FERA I want to know.

CAPTEC Tell me.

FERA You won't tell me.

CAPTEC Just tell me.

FERA No.

CAPTEC Fera, I'm worried.

FERA Don't be.

CAPTEC I'll call Mum and Dad.

FERA What?

CAPTEC If you don't talk, I'm going to call Mum and Dad. I'll quit my job - we'll have to go and live with them again. One of them.

FERA You can't.

CAPTEC I can.

FERA We forgot the number, remember?

CAPTEC I could still remember it.

FERA No, we forgot it.

CAPTEC I'm sure I can still remember.

FERA We sat and repeated numbers all day until they didn't mean anything anymore; until we had no idea which had come first and last. We forgot the address too.

CAPTEC I can't believe it. I can't remember.

FERA Because we forgot it.

CAPTEC I didn't think I had.

FERA Yes, you did.

CAPTEC No, I didn't. I said I did, but I remembered it just in case. Was it...? I can't remember which number came first. There are only ten to choose from and I can't remember.

FERA We'll never talk to them again.

CAPTEC That's ridiculous.

FERA That's what we said.

CAPTEC We were so stupid! Why did we care?

FERA Why are you saying this now?

CAPTEC Same reason you're sitting outside.

FERA STOP

CAPTEC I want to know.

FERA I want to know.

CAPTEC Tell me.

FERA You won't tell me.

CAPTEC Just tell me.

FERA Please. Please tell me.

CAPTEC No.

FERA Please. Why won't you?

CAPTEC It's not important.

FERA It is to me. Please.

CAPTEC Why do you keep sitting outside?

FERA What?

CAPTEC That's important to me.

FERA Was it on purpose?

CAPTEC I'm going to say it.

FERA Did he do it on purpose?

CAPTEC Right, that's it. I'm going to say it. You can't bear to be in this house alone, can you? Ever since Solt, you haven't been able to spend one moment in here by yourself.

FERA STOP

CAPTEC You're scared, aren't you? Scared ever since I found him and you can't even sit in this building without thinking about it. Why should I tell you what happened when you already think about it way too much?

FERA STOP

CAPTEC What, do you think he might still be here? Are you scared he's going to reappear?

FERA STOP STOP STOP

FERA Zero. Two. Seven. Seven. Four. Nine. Six. Two. Seven. Four. Nine. Nine. Six. Three. Five. Zero. Zero. One. Eight. Eight. Two. Eight. One. Four. Nine. Three. Six. Four. Four. Three. Seven. Nine. Zero. Seven. Eight. Two. Five. And we forgot. So why can't I forget you? Solt. S O L T T L S S O O L O T S L T T S S T. Solt. Solt Solt Solt. I can't forget.

CAPTEC You look tired.

FERA I am.

CAPTEC Go to sleep.

FERA I can't sleep.

CAPTEC What?

FERA I'm so tired.

CAPTEC Get some sleep.

FERA I can't.

CAPTEC Why not?

FERA I just can't.

CAPTEC I don't understand.

FERA STOP

CAPTEC You look tired.

FERA I am.

CAPTEC Go to sleep.

FERA I can't sleep.

CAPTEC Why don't you try?

FERA I do.

CAPTEC Now. Go and lie down.

FERA I think I will.

CAPTEC Go on then.

FERA I am.

CAPTEC Here?

FERA Yes.

CAPTEC Go to bed.

FERA I'm fine here.

CAPTEC You'd sleep better in bed.

FERA I'm ok here.

CAPTEC I don't understand you. You say you're tired, then you won't go to bed.

FERA I'll sleep here with you.

CAPTEC With me? Why? I don't care. Don't stay here for my sake.

FERA I'm not.

CAPTEC Then why not go to bed?

FERA STOP

CAPTEC You look tired.

FERA I am.

CAPTEC Go to sleep.

FERA I can't sleep.

CAPTEC What? Why not?

FERA I don't know.

CAPTEC What's stopping you?

FERA

CAPTEC A sudden fear of the dark?

FERA STOP

CAPTEC You're scared, aren't you?

FERA STOP

CAPTEC Ever since Solt.

FERA STOP

CAPTEC You're afraid of the dark.

FERA I'm not.

CAPTEC That's why you can't sleep.

FERA STOP STOP STOP

FERA Stop. Stop thinking. Stop dreaming. Stop stop stop. I'm tired. I want to sleep. To sleep as if I were dead, without thought and without dreams. Without you. I don't want to see you. If you're still here, don't let me see you. You'll scare me. Please. I feel you here in this house. It's stupid to be frightened, isn't it? But it's really hard... Are you there? Solt? No, don't answer me. Don't ever speak to me. You must hate me, but I don't want you to speak. I wait for you, but don't ever come. When I'm on my own, I expect to hear your voice, but don't ever speak. In the darkness, I wait for your whisper, but I don't want to hear it. I'm sorry.

CAPTEC I'm going out.
FERA Where?
CAPTEC Where do you think? I've got work.
FERA Oh.
CAPTEC I always have work.
FERA I know.
CAPTEC So why did you ask where I was going?
FERA I just forgot.
CAPTEC You just forgot about the fact I go out to work every day?
FERA STOP

CAPTEC I'm going out.
FERA Where?
CAPTEC Where do you think? I've got work.
FERA Oh.
CAPTEC I always have work.
FERA I know.
CAPTEC So why did you ask where I was going?
FERA I just forgot.
CAPTEC You just forgot about the fact I go out to work every day?
FERA Why don't you write from home?
CAPTEC That's impossible.
FERA You could send the stories in when you're finished.
CAPTEC You want me to write from home?
FERA Well you could.
CAPTEC You want me to stay home with you?
FERA You don't have to.

CAPTEC I know I don't have to, but you want me to.

FERA I don't mind.

CAPTEC Why do you want me to write from home?

FERA

CAPTEC Would it stop you from getting scared?

FERA I don't get scared.

CAPTEC Would you be able to manage staying in the house?

FERA What?

CAPTEC If I were here, you wouldn't have to sit outside, would you?

FERA It wouldn't matter to me.

CAPTEC Oh I think it would.

FERA STOP

CAPTEC I'm going out.

FERA Where?

CAPTEC Where do you think? I've got work.

FERA Oh.

CAPTEC I always have work.

FERA I know.

CAPTEC So why did you ask where I was going?

FERA I just forgot.

CAPTEC You just forgot about the fact I go out to work every day?

FERA Couldn't you send the stories in from here?

CAPTEC What stories?

FERA The ones you write.

CAPTEC Yes, and what will I write about if I spend all my time in here stuck with you?

FERA We have stories.

CAPTEC I don't write stories. I write reality.

FERA Reality is stories.

CAPTEC Your stories aren't reality.

FERA How?

CAPTEC You don't know anything about the real world.

FERA Yes I do.

CAPTEC No you don't.

FERA Yes I do.

CAPTEC No you don't.

FERA Yes.

CAPTEC No.

FERA Yes!

CAPTEC I'm going out.

FERA No don't.

CAPTEC Why not?

FERA I'm sorry.

CAPTEC What for?

FERA For...

CAPTEC

FERA For arguing. I'm sorry.

CAPTEC Oh that's ok then.

FERA Really?

CAPTEC You're forgiven. I forgive you and I'll stay here with you.

FERA Really?

CAPTEC Is that what you want?

FERA

CAPTEC Is that the story you want?

FERA The story?

CAPTEC Is that the story you want, for me to stay here with you?

FERA Yes.

CAPTEC OK.

FERA Thank you.

CAPTEC Don't thank me. I'm going out.

FERA But you said!

CAPTEC It's all stories to you. I'm just a story, you're just a story, our whole lives are just a story.

FERA A real one.

CAPTEC There's nothing real about it.

FERA Yes, there is.

CAPTEC Not in your mind, there isn't.

FERA It's all real.

CAPTEC I'm going out.

FERA Don't.

CAPTEC That's the reality. I have to do my job.

FERA STOP

CAPTEC I'm going.

FERA STOP

CAPTEC No, I won't stop.

FERA STOP

CAPTEC No. No I won't.

FERA STOP

CAPTEC No.

FERA I'm scared! I am scared, OK? It's true. I'm afraid of everything and I don't want you to leave me here on my own. Stay with me. Please, won't you stay with me? I'm sorry I didn't tell you, but I thought it would stop. Listen to me. My mind started showing me all of these - I see the moment when you found him in my head. I

imagine I'm with you when you – I think that I can hear...Stay. Listen to me. I'll tell you. I'll tell you that I'm scared and that I don't want you to go. Please stay. Stay here.

CAPTEC I'm listening.

FERA

CAPTEC You said you'd tell me.

FERA

CAPTEC If you're not going to speak, I'll go.

FERA STOP

CAPTEC I'm listening.

FERA

CAPTEC You said you'd tell me.

FERA

CAPTEC If you're not going to speak, I'll go.

FERA Wait.

CAPTEC Are you going to tell me?

FERA Yes.

CAPTEC When ?

FERA Now.

CAPTEC Go on then.

FERA I am.

CAPTEC Go on, Fera.

FERA I'm trying.

CAPTEC Are you?

FERA STOP

CAPTEC I'm listening.

FERA

CAPTEC You said you'd tell me.

FERA

CAPTEC If you're not going to speak, I'll go.

FERA Wait.

CAPTEC Are you going to tell me?

FERA Yes.

CAPTEC When ?

FERA Now.

CAPTEC Go on then.

FERA I don't like being on my own.

CAPTEC I know.

FERA Please just listen.

CAPTEC I am.

FERA Be quiet.

CAPTEC Ok.

FERA STOP

CAPTEC So?

FERA I don't like...Don't speak.

CAPTEC

FERA I don't like...

CAPTEC

FERA Being on my own. In the house. It's really quiet and I expect...I'm afraid I'll hear his voice. I'm scared that I'll hear him speak to me and I'll turn around and he'll be there.

CAPTEC But he's dead.

FERA I know.

CAPTEC Is that why you're always sitting outside?

FERA STOP

CAPTEC So?

FERA I don't like...Don't speak.

CAPTEC

FERA I don't like...

CAPTEC

FERA Being on my own. In the dark. I lie awake and I can't see anything and I expect...I'm afraid I'll feel him near to me. I'm scared that I'll feel a hand wrap around my ankle and then I'll scream and turn and he'll be there.

CAPTEC

FERA Sometimes, I switch the light on so that I can see, but no one's ever there. He's never there, Captec. But as soon as it's dark again, I can feel him. Or I think I can.

CAPTEC But he's dead, Fera. He's dead.

FERA I know.

CAPTEC You don't believe in ghosts, do you?

FERA No.

CAPTEC You do.

FERA No.

CAPTEC Is that why you can't sleep?

FERA Yes. No.

CAPTEC Is that why?

FERA STOP

CAPTEC So?

FERA I don't like...Don't speak.

CAPTEC

FERA I don't like...

CAPTEC

FERA I don't like it when I see him.

CAPTEC When you see him?

FERA Don't speak!

CAPTEC

FERA I don't like it when I see him. In my head when I'm trying not to think about him. When I finally sleep, my mind is filled with dreams and in this other world I'm still wide awake so it's not like sleep at all. And I see him there and he's/

CAPTEC So you don't really see him?

FERA But I do! And he's dying. His body betrays the damage done to it. His slashed wrists bleed his life away into the floor. Around his neck is a thick red line – sometimes he still wears the rope around his neck. And one time, he sicked up poison, his body bent double on the floor, a small empty bottle in his hand. I was so afraid. So afraid that he'd sent that poison right into me.

CAPTEC STOP

FERA He tries to speak but he can't because he's strangled all the sound out of himself, or he can't make out words through the blood that gargles them up in his mouth. His eyes never change though and they can always look right at me.

CAPTEC STOP

FERA It feels so real. And one day, I'm sure it will be. He'll be there and I won't be able to turn on a light and see that he's not. I won't be able to wake up from the dream because it will be real.

CAPTEC STOP

FERA And then, because I'm so scared of him, I'm afraid that he'll want to show me that there's no need to be. That he'll come just to show me that he isn't falling apart and that he's fine. Because he can't be fine but he'll want to show me that he is. That's what he always did, isn't it? He's fine, he's fine, he's fine. And then he's not because he's dead. No, Solt. I don't want to see you. I'm sorry, but I don't. Captec, it's like I talk to him by accident. I think about him and I want to ask him exactly what happened and I try to force myself not to think about him but I can't. I don't want him to answer me, but I keep asking anyway because I want to know what happened. You know, Captec, don't you? Why won't you tell me? If you'd just tell

me, it would all go away. I wouldn't have to think about it anymore and I wouldn't have to imagine because I'd know.

CAPTEC STOP STOP You fucking STOP

CAPTEC Stop talking. Just stop right now and stop. I don't want to talk about it, OK? I have tried to forget, like we forgot the numbers. But I can't. So I have accepted. I have accepted what happened and maybe one day it'll all go away. How could I tell her what happened, Solt? How could I tell her?

FERA You stopped me.

CAPTEC I know.

FERA You stopped me.

CAPTEC It needs to stop.

FERA Are you alright?

CAPTEC I don't want to talk about it.

FERA Captec?

CAPTEC No.

FERA Are you/

CAPTEC STOP

FERA You stopped me.

CAPTEC I know.

FERA You stopped me.

CAPTEC It needs to stop.

FERA I know.

CAPTEC I don't want to talk about it.

FERA Why?

CAPTEC Because none of it's real.

FERA Yes it is.

CAPTEC You're all messed up in your head.
FERA Don't say that.
CAPTEC Listen to yourself. You're screwed up.
FERA Then help me.
CAPTEC How do you expect me to help you?
FERA Tell me what happened.
CAPTEC Not that.
FERA Tell me how he died.
CAPTEC STOP

FERA You stopped me.
CAPTEC I know.
FERA You stopped me.
CAPTEC It needs to stop.
FERA I know.
CAPTEC I don't want to talk about it.
FERA Tell me the truth.
CAPTEC The truth? You tell me that you're afraid of a ghost and then try to pretend that what you care about is the truth?
FERA If I knew the truth, I wouldn't be so scared.
CAPTEC You might be more scared.
FERA What do you mean? How? What happened?
CAPTEC Fera, I've told you no.
FERA I need to know now Captec. I need it.
CAPTEC You'll never know.
FERA Why, Captec? Please, please.
CAPTEC STOP
FERA One day, you'll tell me, won't you?

CAPTEC STOP

FERA It doesn't have to be today, but soon.

CAPTEC STOP

CAPTEC No, I said. I said no and I'll keep saying it. No no no no no. Do you see, Solt? Do you see what it's done? To me, to her. How can I...? How can I confess...tell her what happened? I'm angry at you, Solt. I hate you for doing what you did. Yes, I hate you more than myself. We'd write the stories together, remember? The 'horror stories' you'd call them. And then you... Why should you have stayed? Sometimes I'm not too sure. But by leaving, you just made me write another horror story.

FERA So?

CAPTEC I don't like this.

FERA

CAPTEC Any of it.

FERA

CAPTEC It's frustrating.

FERA What do you mean?

CAPTEC The world is a frightening place.

FERA I know.

CAPTEC You don't. You don't understand at all.

FERA I told you that I'm frightened.

CAPTEC Yes. Of the dark. And ghosts. And dreams. It's all fantasy, Fera.

FERA It's real to me.

CAPTEC And the really frightening things don't even enter your head. Because you're too absorbed by your delusions.

FERA STOP

FERA So?

CAPTEC I don't like this.

FERA

CAPTEC Any of it.

FERA

CAPTEC It's frustrating.

FERA What do you mean?

CAPTEC You know what I do when I go out?

FERA You write.

CAPTEC I write what?

FERA The stories.

CAPTEC I write about things that really happen. I write about real life.

FERA Yes.

CAPTEC Do you know how frightening some of those things are?

FERA

CAPTEC Yes, frightening. Awful. Real.

FERA

CAPTEC Do you understand?

FERA Yes.

CAPTEC No. No, you don't. You don't get it at all.

FERA You never tell me.

CAPTEC You've never asked.

FERA

CAPTEC I want you to know.

FERA To know what?

CAPTEC To know what's really frightening.

FERA I don't understand.

CAPTEC Yes, I want to tell you some stories.

FERA Stories.

CAPTEC Yes, real ones. I want to tell reality to you. Because it's about time you learned that there's more to be feared than ghosts in the dark.

FERA STOP

FERA So?

CAPTEC I don't like this.

FERA

CAPTEC Any of it.

FERA

CAPTEC It's frustrating.

FERA What do you mean?

CAPTEC I'm going to tell you.

FERA What?

CAPTEC I'm going to tell reality to you.

FERA I don't understand.

CAPTEC You don't. So I'm going to help you.

FERA What are you going to do?

CAPTEC You won't be afraid of Solt anymore.

FERA I'm not afraid of him.

CAPTEC You won't be afraid of the dark. Or of ghosts. You won't be afraid of those anymore.

FERA How?

CAPTEC How ?

FERA Yes. How?

CAPTEC Because I'm going to tell you of the things, real things, that are much more frightening.

FERA You're going to tell me what happened to Solt?

CAPTEC I'm going to tell you the true horror stories.

FERA I don't want to hear them.

CAPTEC Which is exactly why you must.

FERA No Captec. I'm frightened.

CAPTEC Yes, you are. Of the wrong things. You fear being alone because of a dead friend?

FERA STOP

CAPTEC What if someone breaks in?

FERA Captec, I don't like this.

CAPTEC Climbs in the window and thrusts a knife through your stomach so that the point of it goes right the way through your back.

FERA STOP

CAPTEC They take everything you ever had. No trace of them, or even of you. Except for your drained body, decaying in its own blood. Found years later when someone takes an interest in this dilapidated house.

FERA STOP

CAPTEC Am I getting somewhere? Because that has happened, Fera. It happened. Are you amazed?

FERA STOP

CAPTEC Be frightened of that. If you must fear being alone in this house, fear it because...

FERA STOP STOP STOP STOP STOP STOP

CAPTEC Stop? Why? Does it make you feel sick? Does it put pictures in your head that you wish you'd never seen? Are you afraid now, Fera? What about Solt? Will you still be afraid of him? No, you'll forget about him. We'll forget about him. It's time for some reality. And you will listen to me. Yes, you will. Hear me, Fera. It's story time.

FERA I'm listening.

CAPTEC Are you sure?

FERA Yes.

CAPTEC I need you to sit up straight.

FERA Why?

CAPTEC That's how it's got to work. Sit up straight, hands in your lap, eyes and ears wide open.

FERA

CAPTEC You don't need to speak. Just listen.

FERA Even if you ask a question?

CAPTEC Just listen.

FERA

CAPTEC I believe I have managed to diagnose you.

FERA STOP

FERA I'm listening.

CAPTEC Are you sure?

FERA Yes

CAPTEC I need you to sit up straight.

FERA Why?

CAPTEC That's how it's got to work. Sit up straight, hands in your lap, eyes and ears wide open. I know what's wrong with you. Number one : monophobia. You're afraid of being alone in the house. Why? You fear that you'll hear Solt, who is dead. Number two: nyctophobia. You're afraid of the dark. Why? You fear that you'll feel Solt, who is...Number three: oneirophobia. You're afraid of your dreams. Why? Because you fear that you'll see Solt, who is dead.

FERA

CAPTEC So it all comes back to number four: phasmophobia. Fear of the paranormal.

FERA STOP

FERA I'm listening.

CAPTEC Are you sure?

FERA Yes.

CAPTEC I need you to sit up straight.

FERA Why?

CAPTEC Where?
FERA With you.
CAPTEC You can't.
FERA Why not?
CAPTEC I'm working.
FERA I don't want to stay in the house.
CAPTEC Why not?
FERA I...
CAPTEC What?
FERA I saw...
CAPTEC Solt?
FERA No.
CAPTEC Then who?
FERA No.
CAPTEC Who did you see?
FERA STOP

FERA I'm going out.
CAPTEC Where?
FERA With you.
CAPTEC You can't.
FERA I had a dream.
CAPTEC About Solt?
FERA No.
CAPTEC What happened?
FERA There was a man in my room.
CAPTEC Did he try to hurt you?

FERA He...

CAPTEC What did you do to you?

FERA It was like in the story you told.

CAPTEC Tell me.

FERA I don't want to talk about it.

CAPTEC Tell me, Fera.

FERA

CAPTEC Tell me.

FERA I heard the window shatter. I looked around and then he was behind me. I saw metal, then felt something cold and sharp against my neck. He pushed me back onto the bed and then rolled me over onto my front. He was sat on me. I felt the blade trace down my back and I wanted to move but I couldn't breathe and I thought that if I lifted myself up, the point would go right into my back and stick out through my stomach into the bed, trapping me there forever. I could only lie there. I had another dream too.

CAPTEC About Solt?

FERA No.

CAPTEC What then?

FERA The house. It was crumbling and we were stuck inside. Let me come with you.

CAPTEC No. You'll stay here.

FERA Please. I'm going to get hurt.

CAPTEC I have to go.

FERA I'm afraid.

CAPTEC I have to go.

FERA STOP

FERA You look tired.

CAPTEC I am.

FERA Go to sleep.

CAPTEC I can't sleep.

FERA Why not?
CAPTEC I don't know.
FERA It doesn't make sense.
CAPTEC STOP

FERA You look tired.
CAPTEC I am.
FERA Go to sleep.
CAPTEC I can't sleep.
FERA Why not?
CAPTEC It doesn't matter.
FERA It does.
CAPTEC Just forget about it.
FERA How?
CAPTEC STOP

FERA You look tired.
CAPTEC I am.
FERA Go to sleep.
CAPTEC I can't sleep.
FERA Why not?
CAPTEC It doesn't matter.
FERA I can't sleep either.
CAPTEC Yes you can.
FERA No I can't.
CAPTEC You can.
FERA How would you know?

CAPTEC Because you're the reason I can't sleep.

FERA How?

CAPTEC All that screaming. You scream all through the night.

FERA Do I?

CAPTEC It makes me panic.

FERA I thought I only screamed in my dreams.

CAPTEC The screams are real alright.

FERA I'm sorry.

CAPTEC And they wake me several times a night. You never screamed like that before.

FERA It's the stories, Captec. They've given me nightmares.

CAPTEC You had nightmares before.

FERA These are different. There are so many things/

CAPTEC I don't understand.

FERA Isn't this what you wanted, Captec?

CAPTEC I don't know.

FERA Am I frightened of the right things now?

CAPTEC But/

FERA But what?

CAPTEC It wasn't supposed to give you nightmares.

FERA Well what was it supposed to do? What were those stories supposed to do?

CAPTEC Just make you realise.

FERA Realise what?

CAPTEC Reality.

FERA I have.

CAPTEC No, you haven't. I got it wrong.

FERA I have.

CAPTEC You're paranoid.

FERA My fears are justified. They happen to people. You told me, Captec.

CAPTEC They don't.

FERA Yes, they do.

CAPTEC Very few.

FERA But they do happen.

CAPTEC They won't happen to you.

FERA How do you know? They might.

CAPTEC They won't.

FERA They already did. With Solt. I lost him. I might lose you next.

CAPTEC STOP STOP STOP

CAPTEC Stop. Why won't you stop? I thought you'd forget; forget Solt and forget... to be scared. Everyone forgets to be scared eventually, don't they? We hear the stories; murder, rape, dying, loss, impending apocalypse. They're all out there, they all exist, they're all real! But who has time to be afraid? Who cares enough to be afraid? We just accept it. Accept it as part of the world so we can forget and life goes on. Life is supposed to go on, Fera. Do you hear me, Solt? Life is supposed to go on.

FERA I want to know.

CAPTEC I want to know.

FERA Tell me.

CAPTEC You won't tell me.

FERA Just tell me.

CAPTEC No.

FERA How did he do it?

CAPTEC Where are you going?

FERA I asked first.

CAPTEC Where are you going?

FERA STOP

FERA I want to know.

CAPTEC I want to know.

FERA Tell me.

CAPTEC You won't tell me.

FERA Just tell me.

CAPTEC No.

FERA I had a dream.

CAPTEC I heard.

FERA A woman had her hands wrapped around my throat. I couldn't breathe. Like the girl in the story.

CAPTEC I haven't told you any stories for days.

FERA And she said something. She said something about you.

CAPTEC What?

FERA She said something about you.

CAPTEC What did she say?

FERA It was about you and Solt.

CAPTEC Well what did she say?

FERA That you killed him.

CAPTEC What?

FERA She said 'I know what happened to Solt. It was Captec'.

CAPTEC STOP

FERA I want to know.

CAPTEC I want to know.

FERA Tell me.

CAPTEC You won't tell me.

FERA Just tell me.

CAPTEC No.

FERA His story is real too. Solt's story is real like all the others.

CAPTEC It's different.

FERA How?

CAPTEC

FERA I won't be scared of...what I was scared of before. I really won't be. How is it different? Did you hurt him?

CAPTEC That was just a dream, Fera! Just a dream in your fucked up little head.

FERA Is that why you won't tell me how he died?

CAPTEC No.

FERA Did you kill him?

CAPTEC No.

FERA Then tell me. Now. Tell me how it happened.

CAPTEC No.

FERA Was there blood?

CAPTEC I can't remember.

FERA Which of the stories is his most like?

CAPTEC STOP

FERA If you don't tell me, you did it.

CAPTEC I didn't do it.

FERA Tell me then.

CAPTEC I can't remember.

FERA You can.

CAPTEC I can't. I'm trying but I can't.

FERA Try harder.

CAPTEC It's blocked. I can't remember.

FERA You did it.

CAPTEC STOP

CAPTEC Fera?

FERA

CAPTEC What are you doing?

FERA

CAPTEC What are you doing outside?

FERA

CAPTEC I thought you were leaving.

FERA I am.

CAPTEC STOP

CAPTEC Fera?

FERA

CAPTEC What are you doing?

FERA

CAPTEC What are you doing outside?

FERA

CAPTEC I thought you were leaving.

FERA I am.

CAPTEC Why?

FERA

CAPTEC I didn't.

FERA

CAPTEC He was ill.

FERA III?

CAPTEC He thought bad things. He was tired.

FERA I get tired. You get tired.

CAPTEC Yes, but he was tired of...

FERA

CAPTEC

FERA Of what?

CAPTEC You remember what he was like. He used to go on and on.

FERA About what?

CAPTEC Didn't you hear?

FERA He'd talk about when his mum died.

CAPTEC Maybe it was mainly at work that we spoke. He'd go on and on. I heard it all a hundred times. Every story a hundred times.

FERA What's wrong?

CAPTEC I was sick of it. I didn't want to hear it!

FERA Are you angry?

CAPTEC I told him I'd had enough but he never listened.

FERA So you...?

CAPTEC So I what? So I what, Fera?

FERA You/

CAPTEC STOP

CAPTEC Fera?

FERA

CAPTEC What are you doing?

FERA

CAPTEC What are you doing outside?

FERA

CAPTEC I thought you were leaving.

FERA Yes.

CAPTEC Yes what?

FERA I'm leaving.

CAPTEC And where will you go?

FERA I can't stay here with you.

CAPTEC Don't be ridiculous.

FERA You're hiding something.

CAPTEC What?

FERA You hide everything. And you don't sleep.

CAPTEC I can't sleep because of your screaming.

FERA Did I force you to remember?

CAPTEC Remember what?

FERA Solt.

CAPTEC No.

FERA You thought I'd just forget and then you wouldn't have to feel guilty.

CAPTEC Guilty for what?

FERA But it stops you sleeping.

CAPTEC I didn't do anything!

FERA What happened then?

CAPTEC You know.

FERA I don't. What did you do?

CAPTEC I didn't do anything.

FERA What did you say?

CAPTEC

FERA Captec?

CAPTEC

FERA You said something.

CAPTEC I just told him to stop.

FERA Stop what?

CAPTEC

FERA What did you say?
CAPTEC STOP
FERA Just like that?
CAPTEC STOP I've had enough.
FERA That's all?
CAPTEC STOP

CAPTEC STOP STOP STOP. You always go on at me. On and on and on about this and that and that. Enough, ok? Enough. What's happened, happened. It's life. Write it down and let it go. But no. On and on and on with the tears and the crying. Solt Solt SOLT! STOP. If it's all that bad, then why don't you just go and end it all right now? Go on. You can fuck right off and leave me in peace.

CAPTEC

FERA

CAPTEC Fera?
FERA Captec ?
CAPTEC What are you doing?
FERA Nothing.
CAPTEC What are you doing outside?

The End