

Act Two

SCENE ONE

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?