

**capularis, or the negative
presence phenomenon**

a play by oliver nowak

Characters

Cario

Lurcio

The Mute

The Technician

Internal Security

The Mother

Voice 1

Voice 2

PART I

A chalk outline of a person. Within it,
a damaged cassette recorder.

LURCIO's face and hands are covered in
blood.

CARIO is touching LURCIO'S cheek with
an index finger, perplexed.

THE MUTE stands with his hands in his
pocket, expressionless.

LURCIO

There is blood on my face
THERE IS BLOOD ON MY FACE

CARIO

And flesh

LURCIO

Don't touch me
They'll execute all of us that way

CARIO

Was he executed

LURCIO

No mercy
Mercy shows weakness
And they don't want to appear weak

CARIO

Do you remember what he said
I can't remember anything

LURCIO

Why haven't they dragged him away yet

CARIO

They

LURCIO

Yes they
Them

CARIO

Some dominoes perhaps or cards yes cards

LURCIO
His blood is on my face and yet
Who was he
WHO WAS THIS MAN

CARIO
Who

LURCIO
THIS MAN THIS MAN WHO IS ON MY FACE
You saw it didn't you
You saw what happened

CARIO
I I I I I find it hard to remember

THE MUTE makes an explosion sound.

CARIO (cont'd)
SHUT UP YOU

LURCIO
Do you remember

CARIO
I can't no what do you want leave me alone
No nothing it's a complete blank
He's alive look his legs are moving

THE MUTE laughs.

LURCIO
You there hey you

CARIO
How is he--

LURCIO
Worthless that man is worthless obviously it's a spasm of
some sort

CARIO
But

LURCIO
What I see it what of it

LURCIO picks up the tape-recorder.

LURCIO (cont'd)
I feel dizzy Cario

(2)

CARIO

PUT THAT THING DOWN DAMNIT GIVE IT TO ME GIVE IT TO ME
Apparently--HE SAYS (Indicating THE MUTE.)--Apparently the
device wishes to make contact

LURCIO

Why why is it it's smiling at me like it was smiling at

CARIO

His face how does a face DON'T YOU LAUGH DAMN YOU he's a
nuisance no worse than that he's a

LURCIO

Who ordered the sky to to

LURCIO collapses.

CARIO

Lurcio

LURCIO

Is he are you he's

CARIO takes the tape-recorder from
LURCIO. He presses a button.

CAPULARIS

--the only thing that's human

CARIO

What what what what did you say

CAPULARIS

Where am I

Where am I

CARIO

You're here

CAPULARIS

Where

CARIO

Here

CAPULARIS

I don't wanna be here it's

CARIO

Too bad

(3)

I don't feel right CAPULARIS

What do you feel CARIO

I feel numb what happened LURCIO

THE TECHNICIAN enters. CARIO HIDES THE
TAPE RECORDER.

What happened just now LURCIO (cont'd)

Gnostical torporcide I need you to sign this form for
verification purposes
You did witness it didn't you

Can you stand

Who are you LURCIO
Where's Cario
Gnostical torporcide
Is it fun
Seems like fun
But is it FUN

I feel dizzy CARIO

SHUT UP LURCIO

Who ordered the sky to to CARIO

CARIO attempts to collapse but fails.

THE TECHNICIAN
It results from a constellation of neurophysiological
deficits which require immediate treatment
Did you witness the Event
I think you must have
You're probably contaminated infected with the impression
such an Event makes
We'd have to run tests of course but with

Get that paper out of my face LURCIO

(4)

THE TECHNICIAN

There are some techniques experimental ones which might pave the way for a cure but I think if we run some tests

LURCIO

Do you think it sleeps that mechanical beast

THE TECHNICIAN

I'd like to take you in for more tests

LURCIO

It's waiting for us you know I saw it when I was seized

THE TECHNICIAN

If you'll just sign

LURCIO

It pulled itself out of a scrapheap and crawled through a forest of barbed wire to feed on one's memories it wants us to be its

CARIO

slaves

LURCIO

No not slaves
For verification
It needs our memories to exist as we burn in the afterglow of pleasure's shadow

CARIO

You mean time's shadow

THE TECHNICIAN

How many fingers am I holding up

LURCIO

No it doesn't sleep
It's not efficient
It's too busy gorging itself on some poor victim's--LIKE THAT MAN--has that man been dragged away yet

THE TECHNICIAN

Which man there is no man

LURCIO

The dead one
Yes
I should think he has
He must be dead by now

Where is he?

(5)

Who THE TECHNICIAN

But he was here before LURCIO
Who are you
Who is he

I don't know CARIO
DO YOU KNOW

THE MUTE clears his throat.

CARIO (cont'd)
HE SAYS--He says what--He says the limits of his knowledge
end at the boundary between his body and mine

I'm THE TECHNICIAN
I'm
My identification card says I'm

Is that your signature LURCIO

Yes THE TECHNICIAN

Without this signature who are you LURCIO

I'm THE TECHNICIAN
I'm
My identification card says if you'll just

Damnit I will not LURCIO
There was a man here but now he's not here

He disappeared CARIO

Who THE TECHNICIAN

The man who is on my face LURCIO
THAT MAN

I'm sure the hallucination seemed real THE TECHNICIAN

(6)

LURCIO

Real of course it was real
I've a memory don't I
I can imagine it can't I
It's real
He's real
The blood his blood

THE TECHNICIAN

But one's grasp of reality is tenuous at best

LURCIO

What do you think of my face

THE TECHNICIAN

Excuse me

LURCIO

My face my face

THE TECHNICIAN

It's a bit bloody but nothing that have you seen a pen around
here
I've seemed to have lost my pen

LURCIO

But does it inspire peace

THE TECHNICIAN

It could

LURCIO

I have a face
You have a face
He has a face
But that man he doesn't
I don't recognize you
and what is more I don't remember when I stopped recognizing
you because obviously

CARIO

I have a face

LURCIO

because obviously you know me
I'll try to picture you in my mind and hope that I recognize
you

CARIO

He could squeeze blood from a rock before he could mold that
stranger's face to satisfy a resemblance

(7)

LURCIO

It's failed it always fails

THE TECHNICIAN

These forms really must be signed

LURCIO

Why was that man executed
Why is that man on my face
Why must I sign your form

THE TECHNICIAN

I have a battery of tests of which I need your permission it
would be in your best
If you don't come peacefully I'll be forced
Damn it I'll have you bound and dragged out of here then

LURCIO

That man was just the beginning
Soon it'll happen to all of us

CARIO

Yes
What

LURCIO

I must build an apparatus then
An apparatus that will stop that mechanical beast from
crawling through the barbed wire which protects pain from its
absence
An apparatus that will grant me immunity from its hunger for
memory
Why was that man executed

THE MUTE seizes LURCIO by the
shoulders.

LURCIO (cont'd)

GO AWAY

THE TECHNICIAN

I'll have no choice but to

LURCIO

What is this
What are you doing
Release me
Release me at once

THE TECHNICIAN

Calm down

(8)

LURCIO
This is assault damnit
You are assaulting me

THE TECHNICIAN
Calm down

LURCIO
An assassination
I trusted you
I order you to execute yourself at once

THE TECHNICIAN
Sign the form please

LURCIO
Executed I tell you executed
Cario help me
He's assaulting me
Damn it do something

CARIO
What should I do
What what what
Lurcio is being
Say something
Say something
Hey you
Are you
 alive

CAPULARIS
What of course I am

CARIO
Prove it
Speak to me
Say something
Anything
The batteries the batteries are

LURCIO
DON'T YOU SAY IT DAMN YOU
let go of me
DON'T YOU SAY IT

THE TECHNICIAN
If it weren't for my insistence on this unfortunate use of
force

LURCIO
A justification is it

(9)

THE TECHNICIAN

If you'll just sign this form this form right here

LURCIO

DEFECTIVE

My central nervous system is not faulty

THE TECHNICIAN

When you were admitted into my care

LURCIO

Admitted I don't even know who you are

THE TECHNICIAN

My identification card says

Yes

Well

I think

We should

We must

Establish a new treatment schedule

LURCIO

A new treatment schedule

THE TECHNICIAN

Yes

LURCIO

I don't think I have a faulty central nervous system

I feel fine

THE TECHNICIAN

Of course you don't

This problem goes to the root of your physiology

You think you are normal but in reality you're not

You're sick

As I've said

A constellation of neurophysiological deficits and these tests

LURCIO

I don't care about the damn tests

Fuck the tests

I feel fine

THE TECHNICIAN

How about instituting a new treatment schedule on a probationary

LURCIO

No

(CONTINUED)

(10)

THE TECHNICIAN

A refusal then

LURCIO

Yes

THE TECHNICIAN

With this kind of illness this kind of deep-rooted
pathological illness the consequences of neglecting

LURCIO

If you hadn't noticed I'm running fine
Gnostical Torporcide is that what you called it
Gnostical Torporcide is the furthest thing
Are you pointing a weapon at me
Are you threatening me

THE TECHNICIAN

This could become a serious issue if these treatments aren't
heeded
We'll need a signature
Why don't you take my pen
Sign here
Sign right here please
Take the pen
It's okay just take the pen

LURCIO

The chaplain had surgery before he was executed

CARIO

Was he executed

THE TECHNICIAN

Yes he did and his transfer to another
How did you know he was a chaplain

LURCIO

It's on the form
He transferred

THE TECHNICIAN

His voluntary transfer yes it's being ruled as a voluntary
transfer
An unfortunate violent event in any case
But
Maybe I could
You wouldn't happen to have seen the uh

LURCIO

What

(11)

The remains THE TECHNICIAN

I thought he LURCIO

What THE TECHNICIAN

No I I misremembered LURCIO

Oh THE TECHNICIAN
Well
In any case we have to be absolutely vigilant about this kind
of illness
Absolutely vigilant
And through science we can fix you
Repair what is broke

LURCIO
Vigilance doctor is one of awareness not action
Now if that is all I will

THE TECHNICIAN
If Lurcio is not fit how will he win against that
What did you call it
That mechanical beast

LURCIO
Adapt
Improvise
Overcome
The essence of what is human

THE TECHNICIAN
Physiology
Psychology
Ideology
The essence of humanity

A VOICE buzzes in.

THE TECHNICIAN (cont'd)
What

VOICE 1
Someone here to see you

THE TECHNICIAN
I'm busy at the moment

(12)

It's important VOICE 2

 SILENCE.

Doctor VOICE 2 (cont'd)

Yes THE TECHNICIAN

Let's talk VOICE 2

Can you come back tomorrow THE TECHNICIAN

 SILENCE.

Doctor VOICE 2

Yes hold on THE TECHNICIAN

 THE TECHNICIAN exits

END

PART II

CARIO
What's your favorite color

CAPULARIS
Color
Red no yes red

CARIO
Are you sure

CAPULARIS
No it's red

CARIO
What makes you feel good

CAPULARIS
The wind in my face on a fall day
It's twilight and I've just gotten home
I'm standing on the sidewalk
The sun burns behind my house
It's red the sunset is
The wind blows against my face and then

And then

CARIO
What

CAPULARIS
The redness drains from the sky and a giant spider web is
spun all over above me

CARIO
What would you change

CAPULARIS
Everything
Nothing
I don't know
Change what
(Laughs.)

CARIO
Name five smells you have strong associations with and why

CAPULARIS
Vinegar cuz I used to always forget which was vinegar and
which was vegetable oil

CARIO

Forget as in an uncertainty of your memory

CAPULARIS

I used to blackout yes

CARIO

The other four please
For the report

CAPULARIS

Um
White-out
I remember sniffing it in school
Steak
Where have I had steak
I can't remember
Maybe
No
Sweat
I have hyperhidrosis
I sweat a lot and can usually smell myself before the end of
the day
Very embarrassing
Although lately I haven't been able to in fact
Why do I like steak
And
And

CARIO

Continue

CAPULARIS

Gunpowder

LURCIO

It's beautiful
No really
It's as if you held up a mirror
It's the very likeness of me
Abstracted and recreated in the form of this apparatus

Yes I think so yes
Yes

CARIO

It seems so

LURCIO

The design seems perfect

CARIO

Form follows function

(2)

LURCIO

Form follows function
And yet
Aesthetically
And this
What does this button do

CARIO

It executes a command

LURCIO

It executes a command
What command
Or is it programmable

CARIO

It could be programmable with the right tools
As of yet I haven't

LURCIO

I see

CARIO

If you feel it needs to perform a function other than what it
was built for

LURCIO

Yes yes with the proper conditioning I know all this it's
what keeps anarchy from spreading like a disease
But this button

CARIO

It's function is to push down like so

LURCIO

And then what happens

CARIO

Well it's function is complete

LURCIO

Change the function then
Make it more efficient
Efficiency is next to godliness
I shouldn't have to tell you that the posters are everywhere

CARIO

Yes

LURCIO

You've seen them haven't you

(3)

I admit I have not

CARIO

SILENCE.

What does this machine do exactly

LURCIO

It is what it is
A machine

CARIO

Yes but

LURCIO

The button pushes down like so

CARIO

But its purpose

LURCIO

It's an amalgam

CARIO

An amalgam

LURCIO

Yes
Various types and classes of certain machinery

CARIO

A quicker more precise answer

LURCIO

Various types and classes of machinery built for the
expressed purpose of fulfilling a special function

LURCIO

Yes a function go on

CARIO

A function as a result of which being in existence is a
reflection a copy even a simulation of reality

LURCIO

If you are telling me this apparatus here is nothing more
than a simulation of reality I'll have you murdered as a
waste of space

CARIO

But this button

(4)

LURCIO

I want Engineers not Artists

CARIO

The button moves as you can see

LURCIO

And this here or this what about that what if I

CARIO

DON'T

LURCIO

Nothing

Nothing happening

Explain this

This is unacceptable

Efficiency is next to godliness

I will ask the question again

An evasion will be considered grounds for violence

CARIO

This button

LURCIO

It moves I know

CARIO

That's what you see

Everything else happens in the mind which I think you can appreciate

As it is the most efficient means

LURCIO

What what happens

The button moves so what

CARIO

Bear with me

This machine

This amalgam of form and function

Of science and restrained aestheticism

It is a simulation of our reality

A monument of your greatest achievements

People will look upon this and be inspired

Really violence is not necessary

Really you don't

Just look at it objectively

Look

People will be commanded by the complexity of its very nature to be more productive to be more efficient as demonstrated by this button here

(MORE)

(CONTINUED)

(5) CARIO(cont'd)

Look
Look at the button

LURCIO
You will see violence then

CAPULARIS
Violence
Who is violence

SILENCE.

LURCIO
There is only one way to see violence

CAPULARIS
I need to see a face

LURCIO
Kicking and screaming

CAPULARIS
I need to see something I recognize
Something that is alive

LURCIO
If you confess I'll get them for you

CAPULARIS
I already confessed

LURCIO
That wasn't a confession
Only a submission
We need a confession

SILENCE.

LURCIO (cont'd)
You know it's gotta be done eventually
It's the bureaucrats the bean counters
They'll want to know how you ended up there
I'm sure Internal Security

CARIO
Internal Security my God

CAPULARIS
Internal Security my God

LURCIO
They'll wanna know how it is you escaped

(6)

CAPULARIS
I am in prison I must be
Guards

GUARDS!

LURCIO
I uh
I have a confession to make

CAPULARIS
What

LURCIO
There are no guards

CAPULARIS
What

CARIO
Nope

CAPULARIS
Who the hell is taking care of the place
You
Is it you

CARIO
Well

CAPULARIS
Where does your voice come from

LURCIO
Through the slot

SILENCE.

CAPULARIS
So there's

CARIO
Nothing

CAPULARIS
What about the others
Where are the other prisoners

LURCIO
We're all prisoners

END

PART III

THE TECHNICIAN

Internal Security
I wasn't expecting you so soon
How can I help you
I'll have to insist on recording this
No
Maybe just this once
One's memory can sometimes
It's just that I run a good community here and there are uh
forces outside that conspire to shut me down
Never mind
So
What can I do for you or
(laughs)
Would you like some coffee
Yes
An unfortunate accident that was
Wasn't it
I suppose it was only inevitable
Coffee
I just asked you that
Yes the uh
Most unfortunate most unfortunate
We've been under a state of increased vigilance ever since
I suppose you'd like to uh
ask a few questions
For the report
Yes yes paperwork paperwork
It never ends does it
The machinery of bureaucracy moves on
Yes
And we're all part of that aren't we
Part of that great machine hurtling ourselves towards
extinction
Wouldn't you say
Hmmm
You know
I can't really
You strike me as very serious
Would you like some coffee
There was damage control to think about inspector
There's a war going on if you hadn't noticed
It's us against them
Rehabilitation is only as effective as the means
We do things a little different and yes maybe once in a while
an accident happens but it's all for the greater good
My work
Are you attacking me
My work here is legitimate
I'm pioneering techniques that are unheard of in the field of
science

(MORE)

(CONTINUED)

THE TECHNICIAN(cont'd)

Our consciousness
Our physical selves
The evolution of the human body through modern technology
With science inspector
Science as a logical physical extension of ourselves
Its essence of humanity
Physiology
Psychology
Ideology
The accident that occurred and it must have been an accident
is one I regret not having prevented but we can't let that
deter us from the bigger picture
Which is physiology psychology and then ideology
Therefore I recommend
For the report

That it be ruled an unknown violent event

INTERNAL SECURITY

I understand the event was recorded

It's a binary question doctor
It has or
It hasn't
I do have your cooperation
May I have some coffee
So was it
Was it recorded

THE TECHNICIAN

The event exists in the memories of those it left in its
wreckage
But for verification purposes

INTERNAL SECURITY

Unfortunate

THE TECHNICIAN

Yes
Unfortunate

INTERNAL SECURITY

Your work has not gone unnoticed

THE TECHNICIAN

I expect it hasn't
No I expect it hasn't

END

Part IV

THE TECHNICIAN

Understand
Eat the food
You're not eating the food
Eat the food.

CAPULARIS

The food doesn't exist

THE TECHNICIAN

Of course it does

CAPULARIS

The food doesn't exist
These walls don't exist
And you
You don't exist

THE TECHNICIAN

But the pain exists
Doesn't it

CAPULARIS

What pain

THE TECHNICIAN

Doesn't it
You still exist
Therefore
You still must die

Thank you Cario
I'm afraid

I'm afraid this matter requires urgent action

I appreciate your willingness to trust me in this delicate
matter giving me her

It

CARIO

Yes
I thought maybe

THE TECHNICIAN

I'll have to explore this further you understand

CARIO

Yes of course
But I

(2)

THE TECHNICIAN

You will be rewarded as I've promised
But first these forms
It's only a formality

There's no escape
It's inside you
Every cell
You've already been infected
It's biological warfare for chrissakes
We need to stop Gnostical Torporcide at the source you
understand
We can't have people Torporciding all over the place
Do you know what kind of problems that would create
What kind of a headache the Cartesian Accounting Department
would have to put up with
Well it would be the end of life as we know it
We wouldn't need our bodies anymore would we Cario
Would we
We could live indefinitely
One obliterates the trappings of physical space for something
that transcends reality
And that
That Cario
Would be bad
Wouldn't it
Wouldn't it

I'm relieved you went to me with this
With her
We can't have the wrong sort of people Torporciding
They have to be chosen for their knowledge
Their contribution to life
Their selfless sacrifice to something greater than themselves
because they will be a part of an evolution of humanity that
lifts them to the level of of
Well let's just say it should be someone like me
But of course I wouldn't Torporcide myself

CARIO

Of course not
I'm just glad to have peace of mind again

THE TECHNICIAN

Yes
Your peace of mind
You had mentioned that earlier

CARIO

I have to piss
Where's the

(3)

THE TECHNICIAN

I can repair the damage to your peace of mind Cario
You'll live a long and fruitful life
I guarantee it
Maybe even a productive one

CARIO

I'll have you know I am productive
I'm productive damnit
I'm worth something because

THE TECHNICIAN

Because you will have peace of mind
Think of it
Peace of mind

CARIO

Peace of mind

THE TECHNICIAN

It won't come easily
Nor painless but I'm sure we
Or I should say "I"
Can work something out for you
Here
Sign your name here
Go on
Take the pen
Right here
Put your name right here
Just sign your name
Yes that's it
Good
Good
I'm proud of you
You did good
 You did the right thing

CARIO

I have to
I have to
I have to piss

CARIO exits.

THE TECHNICIAN

The trappings of physical space
How I despise it
You are lucky Capularis

CAPULARIS

What are you doing to my associates

(4)

THE TECHNICIAN

What associates
There's nothing but you

CAPULARIS

He says there's only me

THE TECHNICIAN

You are projecting a very unhealthy attitude
I suggest you adjust it

CAPULARIS

Health
I don't need to worry about health

THE TECHNICIAN

Because there is nothing but you

SILENCE.

CAPULARIS

So anyway as I was saying before I dozed off there was this
guy and he had this huge metal rod blown into his brain by
accident I dunno maybe who knows if he could sing that's
funny you're funny when you get drunk another shot okay here
we go

THE TECHNICIAN

There is nothing but you

CAPULARIS

Damn that was hot wasn't that hot

THE TECHNICIAN

There is nothing but you

CAPULARIS

It just burned all the way down

THE TECHNICIAN

Let's play a game

CAPULARIS

Why

THE TECHNICIAN

Indulge me

CAPULARIS

Games are pointless

(5)

THE TECHNICIAN
I'll say a word and you reply with the first thought that you generate

CAPULARIS
I don't believe in you

THE TECHNICIAN
What

CAPULARIS
(Laughs.)

THE TECHNICIAN
You don't believe me you mean

CAPULARIS
Dog

THE TECHNICIAN
Music

CAPULARIS
What kind

THE TECHNICIAN
A bonfire

CAPULARIS
Food

THE TECHNICIAN
Food

CAPULARIS
Warmth

THE TECHNICIAN
Warmth

CAPULARIS
Safe

THE TECHNICIAN
Safe

CAPULARIS
Painless

THE TECHNICIAN
Painless

(6)

Painful	CAPULARIS
Painful	THE TECHNICIAN
Stop	CAPULARIS
Stop	THE TECHNICIAN
Flames	CAPULARIS
Flames	THE TECHNICIAN
Anger	CAPULARIS
Anger	THE TECHNICIAN
Memory loss	CAPULARIS
Memory loss	THE TECHNICIAN
Shocks	CAPULARIS
Electricity	THE TECHNICIAN
Teeth hurt	CAPULARIS
A doctor	THE TECHNICIAN
A patient	CAPULARIS
Two patients	THE TECHNICIAN
Three patients	CAPULARIS
Four patients	THE TECHNICIAN

(7)

The redness of the sky	CAPULARIS
Blood	THE TECHNICIAN
A spider web	CAPULARIS
A net	THE TECHNICIAN
Caught	CAPULARIS
Getting away with it	THE TECHNICIAN
Crime	CAPULARIS
What kind	THE TECHNICIAN
Unknown	CAPULARIS
How	THE TECHNICIAN
Violent	CAPULARIS
What	THE TECHNICIAN
Event	CAPULARIS
The Motive	THE TECHNICIAN
Pointless	CAPULARIS
The motive	THE TECHNICIAN
Pointless POINTLESS	CAPULARIS

(8)

THE TECHNICIAN

The Motive

CAPULARIS

A pointless pointless means of escape

THE TECHNICIAN

A chaplain

CAPULARIS

I don't believe in you

I don't believe in you

I don't believe in you

I DON'T BELIEVE IN YOU

END

PART V

LURCIO soaks in the silence for a few moments.

LURCIO

I am like you

I think

I feel

But like you it is only a side-effect of an illness of which we are all afflicted with

It is only

SILENCE.

LURCIO exits.

END

PART VI

THE TECHNICIAN

You haven't spoken a word for hours
Your silence is disconcerting
It makes me feel as if your treatment isn't working
A colleague of mine he's gone now
ARE YOU LISTENING SAY SOMETHING
He said that sound is a blade dulled by the senses and that
silence is the greatest weapon against treatment of any kind
because silence conceals
Silence establishes ambiguity
Ambivalence
ACKNOWLEDGE ME
ACKNOWLEDGE ME DAMNIT
Treatment effective treatment can't happen if there's silence
and I know you want to be treated
I AM TALKING TO YOU AND YOU BETTER RESPOND
You've said so yourself
Things can happen
Things can happen with or without you
I CAN'T STAND YOUR SILENCE IF YOU DON'T SPEAK I WILL BE
FORCED TO RESORT TO OTHER MORE PERSUASIVE MEASURES
One can choose to watch or interfere
But most of the time the wreckage is worse than the accident
Maybe none of this matters to you
If you could leave you'd do it wouldn't you
Say something
ANYTHING DAMNIT
You'd do anything to leave wouldn't you
Wouldn't you
Wouldn't you

How are you feeling today

As long as you're silent nothing will happen which in the
long run
Is worse than something happening

Someone is here to see you

Do you want to talk to her

I'll send her away then

CAPULARIS

No

THE TECHNICIAN

Oh
So you talk after all

(MORE)

THE TECHNICIAN(cont'd)

Your mother is here to see you
Would you like to see her

CAPULARIS

Yeah

THE TECHNICIAN

What

CAPULARIS

Yes

THE TECHNICIAN has another tape recorder which he places near CAPULARIS. The Mother's voice is a collection of pasted together words of various conversations which were recorded during surveillance.

MOTHER

/Capularis/

CAPULARIS

Mother

MOTHER

/Capularis/

CAPULARIS

I can't see her

THE TECHNICIAN

It's against the rules

MOTHER

/Capularis/

CAPULARIS

Mother
Ohh it's so good to hear your voice

MOTHER

/Yes/What is the meaning of this/

CAPULARIS

I don't know
It's good to hear your voice

MOTHER

/Of course/it/ is/

CAPULARIS

They haven't told you have they

(2)

/What/Capularis/ MOTHER
What Mother CAPULARIS
/Tell me/something/ MOTHER
Anything CAPULARIS
What/do you/remember about/ the Violent Unknown Event/
/Capularis/
/Capularis/
/Capu- MOTHER
--laris THE TECHNICIAN
SILENCE.

END

PART VII

LURCIO and CARIO stare at THE MUTE.

CARIO

He's completely enthralled
Dead to the world

LURCIO

Amazing
He's in complete ignorance

CARIO

But will it last

LURCIO

The design is flawless

CARIO

Apparently

LURCIO

But will it be effective
Apparently Internal Security would like to discuss certain
events

CARIO

Internal Security my god

THE MUTE cries hysterically, going into
convulsions.

CARIO (cont'd)

He broke

LURCIO

Efficiently nonetheless

CARIO

What'll we do with him now

LURCIO

Leave him
Let that mechanical beast find his withered carcass decaying
in a tableau of extreme terror

LURCIO leaves. CARIO stays around and
examines the chalk outline on the
ground.

CARIO

I don't remember
I don't remember

(MORE)

(CONTINUED)

CARIO(cont'd)

I don't remember
NOTHING HAPPENED
I will
I must
I will that I must be static
Static implies ambiguity ambivalence
As long as I'm static nothing will happen
I must remain static
I DON'T REMEMBER YOU
And yet
And yet I feel as if I might recognize you
As if I might recognize that the boundary between your body
and mine might end here
I must be static
STATIC
SHHSHSHSHSHSHSHSHSHSHSHS
I don't remember that I remember but I remember that I don't
remember I must remain static
Static
I WANT PEACE OF MIND DAMNIT
SHUT UP
SHUT UP SHUT UP SHUT UP
SHHSHSHSHSHSHSHSHSHSHSHSHSHSHSHSH!

END

PART VIII

THE TECHNICIAN speaks to CAPULARIS.

THE TECHNICIAN

What is your most vivid memory

CAPULARIS

My name

THE TECHNICIAN

Your name

What is your name

CAPULARIS

It's

It's

I don't remember

THE TECHNICIAN

But you just said

CAPULARIS

I remember having a name

THE TECHNICIAN

I wonder what it could be

You'd like to get out of here wouldn't you

You'd like to be released from all this
pain

Wouldn't you

It is pain isn't it

You'd do anything you could to live a life free from pain

Wouldn't you

Physical pain

The pain of

uncertainty

Wouldn't you

Wouldn't you

Even if it meant

And if I could take away that pain

That pain of living

Without resorting to such violent measures you'd consider it
wouldn't you?

You'd explore every possible avenue of escape before
resorting to such a

Violent Event

Wouldn't you

(MORE)

(CONTINUED)

Wouldn't you

END

PART VIV

INTERNAL SECURITY

Wouldn't you

LURCIO

I have no reason to lie

INTERNAL SECURITY

But you would

If say you didn't know the difference between right and wrong

LURCIO

Which is what

INTERNAL SECURITY

A matter of perception

A matter of acute objective perception

LURCIO

Yes yes I know all this

Why are you wasting my time with concepts that are taught here everyday

INTERNAL SECURITY

Because you wouldn't be here if you had a firm grasp of the truth

LURCIO

A firm grasp of the truth

It's an object then

INTERNAL SECURITY

It is

The truth is an object that is beholden to no one

It just

is

LURCIO

That mechanical beast is like that Inspector

Pre-occupied with facts

Facts about who you are

Facts about who you think other people are

Facts about who other people think you are

Facts about reality

Facts about fantasy

All this pre-occupation with facts and it can't reconcile the one fact that gives it cause to believe in the other facts

INTERNAL SECURITY

Which is what

(CONTINUED)

That it exists
Why are you here

LURCIO

Because I exist

INTERNAL SECURITY

Because you exist

LURCIO

Yes

INTERNAL SECURITY

You'd like us to believe that wouldn't you
You'd like us to believe that existing is reason enough
Wouldn't you
Wouldn't you

LURCIO

Of course it isn't
One must feed
Learn
Evolve

INTERNAL SECURITY

And that is why you are here

LURCIO

Because I exist

INTERNAL SECURITY

To exist is to feed then
To feed so that you can learn to evolve

LURCIO

Yes

INTERNAL SECURITY

And your reason for existing

LURCIO

You were witness to an Event were you not
You saw what happened did you not
You saw it

LURCIO

I saw nothing
I remember nothing

INTERNAL SECURITY

Nothing escapes Internal Security Lurcio
Nothing

(MORE)

(CONTINUED)
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(2)

INTERNAL SECURITY(cont'd)

Everything is accounted for here
Nothing is created nor destroyed

LURCIO

It just is

INTERNAL SECURITY

Yes
You will tell me what I need to know about this unfortunate
Event

LURCIO

I don't remember

INTERNAL SECURITY

You will remember and you will pass that memory on to me

INTERNAL SECURITY places a micro-
cassette recorder near LURCIO's face.

LURCIO

I don't remember I don't remember I don't remember

LURCIO convulses and collapses to the
floor in a seizure.

END

PART XI

INTERNAL SECURITY plays back the tape.
Its nothing but static.

THE TECHNICIAN

And this means what

INTERNAL SECURITY

Culpability

THE TECHNICIAN

I assure you

INTERNAL SECURITY

That you are not responsible

THE TECHNICIAN

That is right
That is exactly right
I am not responsible
And had the chaplain not transferred to

INTERNAL SECURITY

The chaplain

THE TECHNICIAN

Yes
The chaplain

INTERNAL SECURITY

And where is he

THE TECHNICIAN

She transferred

INTERNAL SECURITY

Transferred

THE TECHNICIAN

Unfortunately
Her help here was appreciated

INTERNAL SECURITY

And where
Where might I find the chaplain

THE TECHNICIAN

Records of that sort
Records of attendance
Of accountability even
Although the chaplain offered to outsource the work

have sadly been neglected
(MORE)

(CONTINUED)

THE TECHNICIAN(cont'd)

She uh left before completing her follow up

END

PART XI

The MUTE stands in extreme terror, as
in its last scene. INTERNAL SECURITY
holds up a tape recorder, interrogating
him.

INTERNAL SECURITY

You haven't spoken a word for hours
Your silence is disconcerting
It makes me feel as if your confession isn't working
A colleague of mine he's gone now ARE YOU LISTENING SAY
SOMETHING He said that sound is a blade dulled by the senses
and that silence is the greatest weapon against treatment of
any kind because silence conceals silence establishes
ambiguity
Ambivalence
ACKNOWLEDGE ME ACKNOWLEDGE ME DAMNIT
Confessions effective confessions can't happen if there's
silence
And I know you want to be treated
I AM TALKING TO YOU AND YOU BETTER RESPOND
You've said so yourself things can happen
Things can happen with or without you
I CAN'T STAND YOUR SILENCE IF YOU DON'T SPEAK I WILL BE
FORCED TO RESORT TO OTHER MORE PERSUASIVE MEASURES
One can choose to watch or interfere
But most of the time the wreckage is worse than the accident
But maybe none of this matters to you
If you could leave you'd do it wouldn't you
Say something
ANYTHING DAMNIT
You'd do anything to leave wouldn't you
Wouldn't you
Wouldn't you

END

PART XII

CAPULARIS

I would
And did

THE TECHNICIAN

And it meant nothing to you to

CAPULARIS

It meant everything to me

THE TECHNICIAN

Do you know who I am

CAPULARIS

You exist
Therefore
 you still must die

THE TECHNICIAN

But do you know who I am

CAPULARIS

Of course

THE TECHNICIAN

What am I

CAPULARIS

A memory

THE TECHNICIAN

A memory

CAPULARIS

Yes

THE TECHNICIAN

Of what
Of whom

CAPULARIS

I told you already

THE TECHNICIAN

You've told me nothing

CAPULARIS

You'd like to get out of here
Wouldn't you

(MORE)

CAPULARIS(cont'd)

You'd like to be released from all this pain
Wouldn't you
It is pain isn't it
You'd do anything you could to live a life free from pain
Wouldn't you
Physical pain
The pain of uncertainty
The pain of being pre-occupied with facts
Facts about who you are
Facts about you think other people are
Facts about who other people think you are
Facts about reality

Wouldn't you
Wouldn't you

And if I could take away that pain of uncertainty you'd
consider it wouldn't you

THE TECHNICIAN

How

HOW DAMNIT

CAPULARIS

I still exist therefore I still must die

END

PART XII

LURCIO wakes up. A rock sits far away from him. He looks around. The sound of a slight wind blows. LURCIO tries to stand but collapses again. He hyperventilates. He stops. The sound of wind fades out. Silence. The wind starts up again, but not before betraying its origin: it's recorded. LURCIO awakes. He sits up. He tries to get up again but quickly sits back down. He's afraid of another seizure. He looks around. A spotlight appears on the rock. He struggles to crawl toward it. It's difficult. He occasionally stops in order to stand but his eyes roll back and he collapses again. He fights to keep conscious. Finally he reaches the rock and the spotlight turns off. He grabs a hold of the rock and pulls himself toward it. The wind stops. Lights out.

He breathes heavy in the dark.

END

PART XIII

Lights fade up.
CARIO lays next to the chalk outline,
asleep. His arm moves over the outline
as if to hold it closer. INTERNAL
SECURITY watches closely. CARIO screams
himself awake. HE sits up. He notices
INTERNAL SECURITY and chuckles.

Just a dream
CARIO

Yes
INTERNAL SECURITY

Yes
Just a dream
CARIO

I understand you are a witness
INTERNAL SECURITY

Am I
CARIO

You are
Tell me
INTERNAL SECURITY

What
CARIO

What happened
INTERNAL SECURITY

Nothing happened
CARIO

Something happened
INTERNAL SECURITY

Nothing happened
CARIO

And you will pass that memory onto me
INTERNAL SECURITY

I I I I I don't remember
Or I misremember
I think maybe nothing happened
CARIO

INTERNAL SECURITY

Then what are you doing here

CARIO

I don't remember
And what is more
Is I don't want to remember
I want to be
Just be
Static
Static like this
Where is
Where is Lurcio
Where is he so that I might be able to

To

To

INTERNAL SECURITY

What

CARIO

WHERE IS HE
LURCIO

INTERNAL SECURITY

Apparently he is

CARIO

DON'TYOUSAYITDAMNYOUDON'TYOUSAYIT

INTERNAL SECURITY

Lurcio is
He is

CARIO

What where

INTERNAL SECURITY

Here

CARIO

...where...?...

INTERNAL SECURITY

Here
Cario it's me
I'm here

In the flesh

CARIO

In the flesh

(MORE)

(CONTINUED)

(2)

CARIO(cont'd)

LurcioohLurcioIdidabadthingabadthingashamefulthi
ngandI'membarrasseddon'tyouseehowembarrassedIamI'mshakingI'ms
ohumiliated.

INTERNAL SECURITY
What have you done

CARIO
I don't remember

INTERNAL SECURITY
Sure you do

CARIO
I won't remember

INTERNAL SECURITY
Sure you will

CARIO
But it hurts

INTERNAL SECURITY
Pain stimulates life
Life is growth
Growth is motion
You must move or die

Come with me

CARIO
I must be static
I will that I must be static

INTERNAL SECURITY
There was an Event

CARIO
I must be static
I will that I must be static

INTERNAL SECURITY
An
Unknown
Violent
Event

CARIO
I must be static
I will that I must be static

INTERNAL SECURITY
An Event of which you witnessed

(3)

CARIO
I witnessed nothing
I must be static
I will that I must be static

INTERNAL SECURITY
An Event of which you have an account

CARIO
Nothing happened
I must be static
I will that I must be static

INTERNAL SECURITY
Something happened Cario
And I must know

CARIO
Nothing happened

INTERNAL SECURITY
I must know Cario

CARIO
You're not Lurcio
Are you

INTERNAL SECURITY
Of course I am

CARIO
I don't believe you

INTERNAL SECURITY
Why

CARIO
I will that I must be static
I must be static

INTERNAL SECURITY
I am like you
I think
I feel
But like you it is only a side-effect of an illness

CARIO
Shhhhhhhhhhhh do you see it

INTERNAL SECURITY
What

(4)

CARIO

Shhhhhhhhhhhh

END

PART XIV

LURCIO holds on to the rock on the ground. HE shivers.

LURCIO

What
WHAT
What do you want

A spotlight appears on LURCIO. HE looks around wildly. A screen slowly appears. After a moment, an image emerges from the screen. It is an image of LURCIO, presently. LURCIO'S attention is captivated. HE moves his arm, and watches it move onscreen. HE shrinks his arm back in fear. After a moment, he moves his other arm. And then his head. His jaw. HE laughs and hears his laugh amplified over speakers. HE quickly stops. HE attempts to stand, watching himself onscreen, fascinated. HE takes a step. And then another step. Soon HE walks slowly over to the screen, He sees himself as a mirror-image. HE stares in amazement. HE touches the screen.

LURCIO (cont'd)

I am not like you

HIS VOICE, thundering from the speakers, sounds distorted, mechanical.

LURCIO (cont'd)

I think
I feel
It is a side-effect of an illness which we are all afflicted with
It is only

The image suddenly changes into a montage of LURCIO'S previous actions, collapsed into 30 seconds; at the end of which, LURCIO'S VIDEO IMAGE says

LURCIO'S VIDEO IMAGE

I am like you
I think
I feel

(MORE)

LURCIO'S VIDEO IMAGE(cont'd)

And like you it is an illness of which we are all afflicted
with

It is only--

Static fills the screen; the sound,
amplified through speakers. The image
and sound fade out, replaced by the
image of the rock, in spotlight.

LURCIO turns and sees the rock. HE
tries to move but finds his body drawn
back to the screen. LURCIO forces his
body to obey, and moves mechanically
towards the rock. HE squats down and
picks up the rock. As HE stands, he
looks at the screen. The image of the
rock hasn't changed. The screen
disappears and LURCIO is left alone,
holding the rock. The spotlight fades
out.

END

PART XV

A table. A white cloth covers something underneath it.

THE TECHNICIAN

Would you like to sit
Please sit
No
Okay then
Your presence here
Your presence here has been therapeutic
There is no doubt
Your presence exemplifies certain
Anyway
I've done some investigation myself
And I have
Well
Really
I think precision here is what is called for
And
Yes
Well
Precision is vigilance against inaccuracy
A vigilance of the truth so to speak
And I think
 I mean
 I know

Well

I have found the evidence you seek
A body of evidence as it were
Of culpability
Of the Violent Event

As it were

Of a reality
 A confirmation really
 Yes
 A confirmation
That is why you are here is it not
You requested a record
 a record of evidence
And I have found it
Vigilance inspector is one of awareness
And this particular situation
 This ALLEGED Gnostical Torporcide was brought to my

An admission as it were or
Or a confession if you prefer
Yes

(MORE)

(CONTINUED)
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THE TECHNICIAN(cont'd)

Well

Let's get on with it shall we

THE TECHNICIAN pulls the sheet off the table and reveals a fully inflated love-doll.

THE TECHNICIAN (cont'd)

This is the record you have been searching for inspector
As you can see it was not Gnostical Torporcide but something quite different

The body has been found
and I

Of course

Will subject it to a battery of tests

An autopsy as it were

To determine how "it"

or "she"

Was brought to this reduced state of awareness

As you can see it is still responsive

THE TECHNICIAN pokes the love-doll.

THE TECHNICIAN (cont'd)

Awareness inspector is

Well

You can see for yourself

INTERNAL SECURITY carefully pokes the love-doll.

THE TECHNICIAN (cont'd)

And the stain on the face

The stain suggests

INTERNAL SECURITY

Complicity I agree

There is no doubt

INTERNAL SECURITY places his cheek over the love-doll's open mouth.

INTERNAL SECURITY (cont'd)

There is no breathing

THE TECHNICIAN

What

INTERNAL SECURITY

It appears the victim has stopped breathing

(CONTINUED)

(2)

The love-doll deflates.

THE TECHNICIAN

That's a normal phenomenon which I intend to devote full my
Well let's just say
What I mean to say

INTERNAL SECURITY

Who is responsible

THE TECHNICIAN

There is the issue of that
And one in which I have a treatment
A new treatment
Radical you might say
A radical treatment

INTERNAL SECURITY

Who

THE TECHNICIAN

Cario yes Cario
It was him

INTERNAL SECURITY

The mutilation of the face is horrific is it not

THE TECHNICIAN coughs and adjusts his
coat.

END

PART XVI

LURCIO clutches his rock, passed out on the ground. CARIO shakes him.

CARIO

Lurcio
Hey old boy
It's me Lurcio
Lurcio

CARIO pokes LURCIO in the face. There is no reaction from LURCIO.

CARIO (cont'd)

He's
 No
 He's asleep
Lurcio are you

asleep

CARIO imitates LURCIO in the following conversation.

LURCIO

Of course I am

CARIO laughs.

LURCIO (cont'd)

So stop bothering me
I'm sleeping
Sleeping damnit

CARIO

Yes
Yes
It's just that
Well
It's just that ever since I saw

LURCIO

We saw

CARIO

We saw yes
YES
WE
US
BOTH ME AND YOU
Are you awake

Yes

LURCIO

I can't
I mean
The image
The memory
You know what I mean
I can't
It's difficult
Very difficult
Too difficult
And it hurts
But
 us
 We-us

Both me and you

We PLEDGED

LURCIO

I pledged

CARIO

You pledged
And I
Well
Well

I was weak

I can't
I want
I shouldn't
But

Do you remember what it was like before

LURCIO

Of course I do

CARIO

Before you went to sleep
Before you were
Seized

Seized yes well

Anyway I

(sighs)

(2)

LURCIO

And I you
And together we will

CARIO

Do you forgive me Lurcio
Lurcio
Do you forgive me

Sounds of footsteps, distorted and
many.

CARIO panics and runs, only to have his
way blocked by INTERNAL SECURITY. CARIO
runs the other way and is stopped by
THE TECHNICIAN.

CARIO collapses to his knees,
screaming. HE stops and falls over,
catatonic.

THE MUTE appears, dragging a stretcher.
He drops it near CARIO and pushes his
limp body into it.

CARIO (cont'd)

(repeats.)

I must be static
I will that I must be static
Static implies ambiguity

THE MUTE drags the stretcher behind
him.

END

PART XVII

THE TECHNICIAN drops a length of thick electrical cable on the desk.

THE TECHNICIAN

The evidence has been planted
A culprit blamed
Punishment meted out
And I must say
Compelled to say
Maybe even coerced by my own ingenuity to say that
Well
I mean
Cario now has peace of mind
Yes
Peace of mind
Coerced by my own ingenuity
Yes well
We shall see
Or rather I shall see
And so my dear
My dear
I have held up my end of the bargain
According to what had transpired
According to what has been experienced and recorded
You do not exist
Or rather you have ceased to exist
Supplanted as it were
You have ceased to exist
Therefore
You have died

And so it goes and so it goes my dear

CAPULARIS

Yes

THE TECHNICIAN

So tell me my dear how it is that you have come to be

CAPULARIS

It will require some hardware
A machine will need to be built

THE TECHNICIAN

Yes yes the hardware

CAPULARIS

Do you have the cable

THE TECHNICIAN

I have the cable

CAPULARIS

Attach one end to the sky or as close to the sky as possible

And the other

THE TECHNICIAN climbs to the top of his desk.

THE TECHNICIAN

Yes the other
Like so
Like so yes
It must be like so
Yes the other

CAPULARIS

Attach the other end to your throat

THE TECHNICIAN

Yes yes and then

CAPULARIS

And then
And then jump from a great height
So that your spirit might soar up into the clouds unfettered
by the weight of mercy pity

THE TECHNICIAN

Yes

YES

I see the truth of it
The utter simplicity
The coercion of ingenuity

I'm relieved you confided in me
We need to stop Gnostical Torporcide at the source you
understand
We can't have the wrong sort of people Torporciding all over
the place
They have to be chosen for their knowledge
Their contribution to Life
Their selfless sacrifice to something greater than themselves
Because they will be part of evolution of humanity that lifts
them to the level of of

THE TECHNICIAN jumps off his desk.

END

PART XVIII

LURCIO screams himself awake. HE looks around. HE notices he is cradling a rock. HE strokes it. After a moment, he hears something.

THE MUTE burps.

LURCIO

Cario

THE MUTE looks at him and shakes his head.

LURCIO (cont'd)

Cario

THE MUTE points behind him. LURCIO cautiously tries to stand. HE walks a few stiff steps and stops. HE drops the rock. The sound startles THE MUTE. LURCIO stretches. THE MUTE shuffles over to the rock, transfixed. He squats down and pokes the rock.

LURCIO seizes THE MUTE.

LURCIO (cont'd)

Have you seen him have you seen Cario I must see him immediately it's imperative really you see I was seized seized you understand by that mechanical beast it crawled through the barbed wire of my will and seized me like so

THE MUTE is oblivious. THE MUTE pushes the rock around the ground in front of him.

LURCIO (cont'd)

And it showed me the nightmare my nightmare our nightmare and all I was left with was the wreckage of what it left in its wake the afterglow maybe no not the afterglow something else something entirely horrific you understand something so

LURCIO notices THE MUTE smashing the rock into the ground. THE MUTE smiles.

LURCIO (cont'd)

Something so

Well

THE MUTE drops the rock and places his ear down to it, listening. After a moment, THE MUTE resumes smashing the rock into the ground.

LURCIO (cont'd)

It's completely enthralled
Dead to the world
Amazing
It's in complete ignorance
But will it last
The design is flawless
But will it be effective

THE MUTE smashes the rock into his own skull.

LURCIO (cont'd)

It broke

THE MUTE slowly sits up, bloodied.

LURCIO (cont'd)

No
It appears to have survived

THE MUTE throws the rock down angrily.
It skitters across the ground.

LURCIO (cont'd)

Efficiently nonetheless

THE MUTE rubs his head.

LURCIO (cont'd)

What'll I do with it now

THE MUTE cautiously tastes his own blood.

LURCIO (cont'd)

Take it and let that mechanical beast find its own broken shell rusting in a tableau of extreme terror

LURCIO returns the rock to THE MUTE.

END

PART XVIV

THE TECHNICIAN lies in an awkward position on the floor, motionless but awake. It appears the cable broke something in the ceiling. It is still attached to his neck, however.

INTERNAL SECURITY is present.

INTERNAL SECURITY

I must admit your treatment is radical but effective
The results
The results should be seen to be believed
The results are

INTERNAL SECURITY notices THE TECHNICIAN.

INTERNAL SECURITY (cont'd)

Proof of your skill
Proof of your devotion
Ingenuity even

Doctor
Doctor

INTERNAL SECURITY pokes THE TECHNICIAN in the face. THE TECHNICIAN blinks.

INTERNAL SECURITY (cont'd)

Are you sleeping
I don't mean to disturb you but

INTERNAL SECURITY pokes THE TECHNICIAN again.

INTERNAL SECURITY (cont'd)

Still warm

Doctor your ignorance of my presence is

INTERNAL SECURITY places his cheek to THE TECHNICIAN'S mouth.

INTERNAL SECURITY (cont'd)

Still breathing
Can you speak
Speak
Say something
Your silence is disconcerting
It makes me feel

(MORE)

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INTERNAL SECURITY(cont'd)

It makes me feel like I don't exist
DOCTOR

THE TECHNICIAN blinks.

INTERNAL SECURITY (cont'd)

You blinked
You blink and yet

INTERNAL SECURITY examines the cable
around THE TECHNICIAN'S throat.

INTERNAL SECURITY (cont'd)

You look paralyzed with fear

END

PART XX

CARIO sits in a wheelchair,
expressionless. Big black bruises shade
his eye-sockets.

LURCIO and THE MUTE enter. THE MUTE
carries the rock in both hands.

LURCIO

Cario
Where have you
I've been
But now
Now I've found you
You will not believe what happened
I was seized
Seized you understand
Like before
And the mechanical beast came and
Cario
Cario listen to me
Are you listening

CARIO remains expressionless.

CARIO

It's beautiful

LURCIO

Yes
That beast I assure you
I assure that beast was not
Could not
Would not
Ever
Are you okay

Cario I've created an apparatus
This is a secret you understand
I've created an apparatus that will destroy that beast

CARIO

It's beautiful

LURCIO

No it's not beautiful
It's ugly
Ugly you understand
Cario
Cario where is it where is that mechanical beast

It's beautiful
CARIO

You're acting funny
Why are you acting funny
And what's with those dark rings around your eyes
Are you troubled
You look troubled
LURCIO

It's beautiful
CARIO

THE MUTE points to a clipboard attached to the wheelchair. LURCIO reads it.

Surgery: Tear-ducts, Removal of.
LURCIO

It's beautiful
CARIO

LURCIO throws the clipboard away.

Look at you
You've become one of them haven't you
You've become one of their machines haven't you
HAVEN'T YOU
LURCIO

It's beautiful
CARIO

LURCIO screams in rage and collapses. HE regards CARIO with love and then contempt. HE stands up. HE motions for THE MUTE, and whispers in HIS ear. THE MUTE nods and shuffles behind CARIO.

Yes
Well
Things happen I guess
LURCIO

Things

Happen

THE MUTE smashes the rock into CARIO's skull. Repeatedly.

(2)

It's beautiful

CARIO

END

PART XXI

INTERNAL SECURITY searches THE
TECHNICIAN'S desk. HE finds CAPULARIS
and examines it. HE cautiously presses
one of the buttons. A recording plays
through its tiny speakers.

THE TECHNICIAN

(recorded.)

I'm relieved you confided in me
We need to stop Gnostical Torporcide at the source you
understand
We can't have the wrong sort of people Torporciding all over
the place
They have to be chosen for their knowledge their contribution
to Life their selfless sacrifice to something greater than
themselves because they will be part of an evolution of
humanity that lifts them to the level of of

Sound of THE TECHNICIAN jumping off his
desk. A crash. Sound of THE TECHNICIAN
hyperventilating. Silence.

INTERNAL SECURITY stops the tape and
takes it out of the machine. HE pulls
magnetic media from its shell as the
lights slowly fade.

INTERNAL SECURITY

It was you wasn't it

Of course it was

A spotlight gradually fades up on a
gurney, upon which the love-doll is
placed.

INTERNAL SECURITY (cont'd)

At least
That is how I will present it

For the report.

END PLAY

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