

Ariel Come over here, please, I said . . .

Tupolski enters.

Tupolski What's going on?

Ariel I'm just about to connect him to this battery.

Tupolski Jesus, what kept you?

Ariel We were talking.

Tupolski What about?

Ariel Nothing.

Tupolski Were you doing your 'Children are gonna come up and give me sweets when I'm an old man' speech?

Ariel Fuck. You.

Tupolski *(taken aback)* Pardon me? That's the second time today you've . . .

Ariel *(to Katurian)* You! Kneel down here, please. I've already asked you politely.

Katurian slowly goes over to Ariel. Tupolski sits at the desk, scans through the rest of the confession. Katurian kneels down.

Katurian And who was the first one who told you to kneel down, Ariel? Your mum or your dad?

Ariel stops dead still. Tupolski's jaw drops.

Tupolski Fuck me.

Katurian I'm guessing your dad, right?

Tupolski Oh you didn't go and tell him all your dad shit, did you, Ariel? Jesus!

Ariel No, Tupolski, I didn't go and tell him all my dad shit.

Tupolski What? Oh. Shit. That old one.

Ariel (to *Tupolski*) You keep chipping away with that shit, don't you? With that 'problem childhood' shit?

Tupolski I don't keep chipping away with anything. You're the one keeps bringing your problem childhood up.

Ariel I've never said a word about my problem childhood. I wouldn't *use* the phrase 'problem childhood' to describe my childhood.

Tupolski What phrase would you use? A 'fucked by your dad' childhood? That isn't a phrase.

Ariel starts shaking slightly.

Ariel Would you like to give the prisoner any further information, *Tupolski*?

Tupolski I'm just tired of everybody round here using their shitty childhoods to justify their own shitty behaviour. My dad was a violent alcoholic. Am *I* a violent alcoholic? Yes I am, but that was my *personal choice*. I freely admit it.

Ariel I would like to get back to torturing the prisoner now.

Tupolski Get back to torturing the prisoner now. You've kept him waiting ages.

Ariel connects electrodes to Katurian as he speaks.

Ariel You've overstepped the mark today, *Tupolski*.

Tupolski I am reading through the prisoner's confession, *Ariel*, to ensure we've left no aspects of this case unaccounted for. I'm doing my job. I'm not torturing a condemned fuckwit just to satisfy my own sadist vengeance fantasies.

Ariel Way overstepped the mark.

Tupolski Hurry up and torture the prisoner, please,
Ariel. We've got to shoot him in half an hour.

Ariel connects the electrodes to the battery.

Katurian Where's your father now, Ariel?

Ariel Do not say a word, Tupolski! Do not say a word!

Tupolski I'm not saying a word. I'm reading his confession. I'm doing my job. Like I say.

Katurian Is he in prison?

Ariel And you shut your mouth also, pervert.

Katurian Or you'll do what? Or you'll torture and execute me? (*Pause.*) Is he in prison?

Ariel Shh shh shh, I'm trying to concentrate . . .

Tupolski He's not in prison, no.

Ariel What did I just actually say?

Katurian They never arrested him?

Tupolski They *couldn't* arrest him.

Ariel Tupolski! It would be very bad for all concerned to continue with this . . . with this line of conversation.

Tupolski I have a dreadful feeling you're right.

Ariel So I will just connect this last electrode up here, and I will just connect this last electrode up here . . .

Katurian Why couldn't they arrest him?

Ariel Shh shh shh . . .

Katurian Why couldn't they arrest him?

Ariel has cleared himself from the electrodes and is just about to turn the battery on when Tupolski, at the last possible moment, speaks.