

For the Better

Side 5 – Tegan & Fears 1, 2, 3

Scene 1

The stage is empty. All lights are down, except for one that illuminates TEGAN. TEGAN walks forward slowly.

TEGAN

Dark. Cold. Suffocating. Many have attempted to describe fear. To turn it into words on paper. To try to capture the feeling of your heart as it accelerates to the point you're scared it might run right out your chest. The way everything slows down and speeds up at the same time. Every single sense in your body daring you to run, to escape. Fear makes us do stupid things. When we choose between fight or flight, sometimes we fight the wrong people.

FEAR 1, 2, and 3 enter the stage and advance slowly towards TEGAN. (FEARs are all uniform, with very indistinguishable appearances.)

TEGAN

Fear is good at doing that. Making you fight people you love, backing yourself into a corner, severing connections until all you're left with is the weight that you've screwed everything up. And that scares you, too.

FEAR 1, 2, and 3 reach TEGAN and begin slowly trying to drag them away.

TEGAN

And all you can do is replay everything that went wrong and how you could have fixed it. Scenario after scenario, situation after situation. But in the end it's all imaginary. And fear has won.

FEAR 1, 2 and 3 finally succeed in dragging TEGAN away.

Scene 2

TEGAN stares at their phone. The FEARS from the beginning of the show enter again.

TEGAN

Who are you?

FEAR 1

We are Fear.

TEGAN

I don't have anything to be afraid of. Get out.

FEAR 2

Really? Because you feel afraid...

FEAR 3

Afraid to lose your best friends...

FEAR 1

Afraid to lose the normal you've created...

FEAR 2

Afraid to lose what fragile thing you and April have created...

FEAR 3

But you can keep both of them. April. And Rayman.

TEGAN

(Frantically) How?!

FEAR 1

Simple. Tell April what you said wasn't true.

TEGAN

What? No?! Why would I do that!

FEAR 2

Because if you don't? Rayman will find out.

FEAR 3

You'll lose him. And April.

FEAR 1

Because you've never been in a relationship. You'll ruin your whole friendship. So just... take it back. Everything will be normal again.

TEGAN

I mean... that sort of makes sense.

FEAR 2

Don't you want everything to be normal?

TEGAN

Yeah but-

FEAR 3

(FEAR 3 hands TEGAN their phone) Call her.