

# Vignettes Transcript: S01E04, Speak When



Air date: 09/06/2026 | Listen here: [Vignettes Podlink](#)

Tag line: They decide their timeframes. Are they good at their job?

Protagonist: *Breaker*, played by Lea Lawson

## Intro – 0:00

LEA VO: Vignettes; an improvised audio drama. Episodes are best experienced with headphones. Please see show notes for content warnings. And here we go!

## Theme song – 0:08

[[Vignettes theme](#) plays]

## Speak When – 1:08

[wind blowing, running footsteps gradually getting closer, [song #1](#) plays]

BREAKER: [unintelligible muttering, whispering more understandable as they get closer] I gotta keep going, keep going, oh! Person. Person! Hey! Hey! Hey, you there! [skidding to a halt, sounds of a cassette spinning can be heard] If I stop talking, they'll end me! I thought maybe if you could hear me then maybe you can help me keep talking? I'm also trying to record myself – see? [rattles a cassette player] See? If I record me and play it back, maybe it'll count. [voice starts to pan erratically around headphones to indicate Breaker pacing] Maybe I'll have some reprieve? I don't know – trying! What's your name? Huh? What? The quiet type, huh? That's okay! Well that's okay! This is probably a lot, right? Someone coming at you and just talking at you at high speed—I think, I think if I talk fast that maybe I don't know how long a pause counts. See, they cursed me for calling them inhuman and BAM! Curse! They said for talking out of order I'd be cursed to talk *forever* and if I stop, I *stop*. I mean I. STOP. D'ya understand? I stop. If I stop, I'll think too much, right? I'll think too much. They don't want me thinking too much—they are the law. They are the rule. They are powerful. They're a Warlock! And, technically, not human, so I wasn't lying! And, okay, yeah, I meant to insult them because they're all so *cruel!* But I didn't lie! And *here I am* – talkin' to yo—at you. Talkin' at you.

N-no-*nnn*-no, please, don't go! Please! I have no-one to talk to. And I know it was stupid to dare to speak up, and that there would be consequence for what I did but I was *tired* of the *injustice!* I was *sick* of

no-one *saying anything*, and I'm *done* with not. Being. Heard! Careful what you wish for, huh? Are, are you heard too? Do you wanna be heard? It's okay for you to talk you know—I'm not a good example, I know [laughs awkwardly] You might get cursed like me! If, if I ever break this curse, maybe you'd like to talk, really talk sometime. I, I could listen! I'd be happy to! Oh I'm so good at that – not right now, of course. But, you know, when! When. When I break through; me, and you. If not? That's cool, I guess, you just met me.

Maybe I could find a reservoir, get that parasol...

par-para-para-parabola effect happening! Yeah! Parabola effect, and then maybe I could tell me thoughts to it, and they could echo back at me. That'd still be talking, yes? Yes. I think so. Rules unclear.

Always unclear.

You know it changes all the time! [[song #2](#) plays] You try to follow the rules. You try to keep quiet, do the right thing, and then what you *do* is *wrong*, and then you try something else and that's *wrong too*, and it's just, it's so much *for one person to bear*! But it's not just me – other people have to go through it too, and it's just – *the system doesn't change* because they *don't want to change*. They don't want to make things better – I just wanted to make things *better* by saying something and I—[puddle splash, Breaker stops in place] oh! Oh! Ah! Haha, almost slipped on that puddle. Gosh! A puddle. [Breaker resumes walking and wet footsteps can be heard panning back and forth erratically] Guess it rained last night, uh, we needed that— we really needed that, it's been dry for a while and, uh, uhh it's all so windy all the time, you'd think there'd a storm comin' with it but it's never here, it's so dry, it's—uh, gosh! A puddle! What a way to have gone, huh? Losing out because of a little slip? Just a tiny slip, I mean, wait, what it could have cost me—*it could have cost me everything*. It could me everything—you can't slip. You can't. Slip!

But, uh, do you, do you swim? Can you swim? I, I, I honestly haven't gone to the beach for a while so I can't even remember if I can swim—is it like riding a bike? You know, if you just jump back in and, and try it again, would it be okay? Could the skill kick back in? Maybe. Muscle memory. I mean, if we've done something enough times we're pretty good at it, huh? Good or bad? I think they're counting on that. I think they're counting on us to fall into previous patterns, right? Keep us where we are, or maybe hoping that we forget, that we know to do things because *then we'd be too powerful, right?* Can't have that!

Can't have that.

Gotta keep us where we are.

Keep us quiet.

Keep us conforming.

Keep us *caged*.

They might not even know we're hurting! How ridiculous, right? They might not even know! Maybe they don't care, but, I don't know which one's worse—ah! Uh, y—you look, you like you're about to yawn, are you tired? Tired! *I'm so tired*. Ahahahahahaha so sleep. Oh! [[song #3](#) plays]

What happens when I need to sleep?

*What happens when I need to sleep?!*

I've been going all day, what happens when I fall asleep? My mind keeps racing and that will keep me up, yeah, but only for so long. So *long!* I'll pass out eventually. No, no, no, no, no, no, no, yes. Yes! Yes! The tape recorder! I can play that! I. Can. Play. That. I can—[cassette stops, long shocked inhale] Short tape! No-one sells these anymore and it's a short tape, *fuck!* Ah and I can't rewind it anyway when I'm asleep either!

*I've already lost.*

I've already lost!

Okayyy, okayyy, okay, okay, okay, okay, I'm gonna—I'm goin'. I'm thinking out loud – like I haven't been doing that this whole time, but! [[song #4](#) plays] But you need to hear it, right? Maybe!

I don't think you do.

I don't think you do.

*I* need to hear it, though.

I need to *hear me*. But I can only talk for so long [inhale] But I should get to choose what I talk about and *when!*

I *want* that for me.

I *want* that for *you!*

It all should count—but it *doesn't!*

Why do they get to choose?

*Why do they get to choose who wins?*

Why must there be power to *imbalance?*

Why must they *curse us?*

I can't talk indefinitely, they know this! I've got—I h—I've, I've...

I've lost.

So, nice talkin' to you I guess! I'm, I'm gonna... I'm choose to pause, of my *own accord*. My terms.

Okay!

Hear *this*.

[silence, wind blowing, tape player falls to the ground, wind continues]

## Outro - 7:25

[[Vignettes outro theme](#) plays, VO joins 6 seconds in]

LEA VO: You've been listening to Vignettes. This show was created, performed, and edited by Lea Lawson. All music and SFX are used under a Creative Commons Attribution 4.0 license, royalty free licenses, or are original. For extended credits, please see the show notes. If you'd like to shout me a coffee visit [ko-fi.com/leals](https://ko-fi.com/leals) Thanks for listening. May we meet in another realm :)

## Links/Music credits

[Official site](#), [Bluesky](#), [Podchaser](#)

Vignettes Theme: "[Grief Wears Many AKA Spicy Noodle Supreme Leader](#)" by Maria Damianou & Lea Lawson

Song #1: "The Emptiness is Real" by [Tim Kulig](#)

Song #2: "Marooned" by [Tim Kulig](#)

Song #3: "Pay the Toll" by [Tim Kulig](#)

Song #4: "Fractals" by [Tim Kulig](#)

Outro Theme: "Third Noodle Stuck in Reverse" by Maria Damianou & Lea Lawson

