

SCENE 2.1 -- Interrogation

Lights fade up on the police station. Papers have been shifted and there are more boxes of doughnuts than before. On the wall are clearly depicted blueprints for fire-throwing blimps. TESS, BILLY, COROT, PISTON, STORY JACK, FARADAY, TALI, RYAN, and CONNOR trudge into the police station followed by SPRINKLES and PACHINO. SPRINKLES is carrying a radio in one hand and a doughnut in the other. STORY JACK sneaks out of the lineup to narrate. Lights shift to focus on STORY JACK.

STORY JACK

Hi, everyone!

(pause for audience response, repeat "Hi everyone!" if necessary)

Sorry for our brief interruption. Last we heard, the hackers had just been captured by our good friends with our radio in one hand and a doughnut in the other - and let's just say that the Sergeant was not in the mood to share his doughnuts.

Lights fade down on STORY JACK and come up on the police station.

SPRINKLES

Hackers! Up against the wall, single file!

PACHINO

(leering at the hackers)

You'd better cooperate...

(getting in RYAN's face)

...for your own sake.

SPRINKLES

Now, I know why you're here, you know why you're here, and I know you know I know why you're here so let's not waste anyone's time, shall we?

CLAW and KALF enter.

CLAW

(salutes SPRINKLES)

Mission accomplished, sir! The intimate couple is safely back at Baker House!

SPRINKLES

Claw, I asked you to bring those two back here!

KALF

Sir, we have our hands full here as it is.

SPRINKLES

Dammit, that's not the point!

(frustrated sigh)
Never mind.

PACHINO

(indicating RYAN)
Dibs on that one, sir!

SPRINKLES

Fine! Claw, take that bunch, Kalf, take those. Pachino, that kid better not shit himself in my station. And you-

(pointing at Corot)
- you're with me.

*They divide: PACHINO with RYAN; CLAW with BILLY, FARADAY, and PISTON;
KALF with TESS, TALI, and CONNOR; and SPRINKLES with COROT.*

Interrogation

PACHINO, CLAW, and KALF
WE'VE GOT A FEW QUESTIONS FOR YOU.

KALF
JUST ANSWER THEM STRAIGHT

CLAW and PACHINO
WE HAVE A LOT TO GET THROUGH

PACHINO, CLAW, and KALF
PLEASE GIVE US YOUR NAMES AND LET'S START WITH YOU.

COROT
COROT.

RYAN
RYAN PUTZ.

BILLY
ROGERS, BILLY ROGERS.

TESS
IT'S TESS.

PISTON
PISTON.

FARADAY

FARADAY.

TALI

TALI.

CONNOR

CONNOR.

SPRINKLES

Well now, Corot, here we are.

COROT

Yup, you have me. Want to know the color of my underwear?

SPRINKLES

I'm glad to know you haven't changed one bit.

SIT DOWN!

CLAW

TAKE A SEAT.

PACHINO

THAT'S AN ORDER!

KALF

GO AHEAD

KALF and CLAW

PACHINO

SIT DOWN

I'M AN OFFICER, YOU'D BETTER COMPLY!

KALF

GO AHEAD

CLAW

TELL ME WHY -

CLAW and KALF

WERE YOU UP ON THE ROOF?

PACHINO and CLAW

WE HAVE PROOF

KALF

WHAT'S THE REASON?

PACHINO

YOU WERE THERE DON'T DENY IT!
Had nothing better to do?

RYAN

I was just -

PACHINO

YOU WERE PULLING A HACK, weren't you?
AND DON'T LIE
I CAN SMELL LYING,
I'M LIKE A BEE.

RYAN

Officer?

PACHINO

Don't "officer" me!

RYAN

Sorry, ma'am.

PACHINO

And don't "ma'am" me, I'm an Officer!

KALF and CLAW

ANYWAY

CLAW

ANYWAY

PACHINO

AT EXACTLY 1:22 AM YOU WERE CAUGHT

KALF

YOU OUGHT TO TELL US WHY

TESS

You see, we were up working on a lab for this course 12 class...

TALI

It's some really "upper level" stuff.
(pointing to the roof)

KALF

(looking at CONNOR)
Didn't you say you're a freshmen? What are you doing in an "upper level" class?

CONNOR

(excitedly)
I'm precocious!

KALF

That's the most bogus story I've heard, and I've heard some pretty bad stories in my time - "I didn't mean to strangle him, Officer, the gloves made me do it!" - I don't buy any of it. Besides,

KALF and PACHINO

YOU WERE TRESPASSING

CLAW and PACHINO

TRESPASSING

SPRINKLES

You've been giving me more lip than my ex-wife's dog!

COROT

You can't do anything more than issue community service to students who just happened to be on a rooftop.

SPRINKLES

You were doing more than "nothing."

KALF, CLAW, and PACHINO

WERE YOU PLANNING A HACK?

YOU WERE PLANNING A HACK!

RYAN and FARADAY

No, of course not!

BILLY and CONNOR

Wouldn't dare!

TALI, TESS, and PISTON

Not a chance?

SPRINKLES

WHY ARE YOU STILL WASTING EVERYONE'S TIME?

YOU KNOW YOU'RE COMMITTING A SERIOUS CRIME

COROT

I'M NOT SOME DUMB CRIMINAL OFF ON A SPREE -

I'M JUST DOING WHAT'S IMPORTANT TO ME

I REALLY DON'T CARE ABOUT RECORDS OR RULES

I DEFEND THE TRADITIONS THAT STRENGTHEN OUR SCHOOL

CLAW, KALF, and PACHINO

Hmmmmmm...

SPRINKLES

GO AHEAD, TAKE A SEAT

PACHINO

WHAT'S THE DEAL THEN?

SPRINKLES

GO AHEAD, MAKE YOURSELF AT HOME.

KALF

IT'S UNCOUTH TO LIE

SPRINKLES and PACHINO

I HAVE A SNEAKING SUSPICION

PACHINO

THAT YOU'RE LYING

SPRINKLES

THAT YOU'RE PLANNING TO HACK THE GREAT DOME.

CLAW

If I know Sprinkles, he'll get what he's looking for. He's good at that. I heard once he tied up a beagle until it admitted to digging up his flower garden.

FARADAY

Good thing we're not dogs.

CLAW

Or are you?

WE NEED TO TAKE NOTES FOR SPRINKLES

SPRINKLES

TAKE NOTE, I WON'T BE FOOLED,

SPRINKLES

WON'T BE SCHOOLED BY AN ARROGANT
BOY

KALF and CLAW

WE CAN SEE RIGHT THROUGH
YOU.

SPRINKLES

SO TELL ME,
PLEASE, DO TELL, COROT,
WHAT'S THE DATE OF YOUR DEPLOY?

COROT

WE'RE NOT PLANNING A HACK!

CLAW, KALF, and PACHINO

WE KNOW YOU'RE PLANNING A HACK

COROT

NOTHING UP MY SLEEVE!

CLAW

COME ON, PLEASE, SPRINKLES JUST WANTS TO KNOW

COROT

SO PLEASE LET US GO BACK TO OUR
DORMS

CLAW

WHEN YOU'RE PLANNING TO
DEPLOY IT

COROT

PLEASE, JUST LET US LEAVE!

SPRINKLES, CLAW, KALF, and PACHINO

Hmmmm...

SPRINKLES

Don't be so goddamn smug.
IT'S NOT JUST YOU PAYING FOR ALL YOUR OFFENSES.
DOES THAT SURPRISE TO YOU? DON'T MAKE ME LAUGH.
YOU MAY BE FINE FACING THE CONSEQUENCES
BUT YOUR SO-CALLED "FRIENDS" ARE HERE ON YOUR BEHALF.

COROT

to himself:

I HOPED TO INSPIRE THEM, THAT WAS MY DREAM,
TO SHOW THEM A WIDE OPEN HACKING FRONTIER.
I SAID THEY COULD TRUST ME, BUT I LET DOWN MY TEAM -
I'VE LED THEM ASTRAY BY LEADING THEM HERE
I HOPE THEY DON'T HATE ME...
If I were to tell you that we were planning a hack, would you let us go?

SPRINKLES

So you are planning a hack!

CLAW, KALF, and PACHINO

YOU'RE PLANNING A HACK!

COROT

I didn't say that, I just said that -

SPRINKLES

Why else would you say that?

CLAW, KALF, and PACHINO

YOU'RE PLANNING A HACK!

COROT

I was only -

CLAW, KALF, and PACHINO

WE KNOW YOU'RE PLANNING A HACK!

SPRINKLES

I've heard about enough from you!

Shouting at everyone:

All of you, get the hell out of here, goddammit!

Hackers file out of the police station.

PACHINO

Sir! Wait! He was about to tell me the day! I was this close to cracking -- !

SPRINKLES

Pachino, We've cracked them all right. Their spirit is broken. I think this hack is over.

Menacing laughter. Blackout.

SCENE 2.2 -- Wank, Wank, Wank

Lights come up on STORY JACK.

STORY JACK

Getting caught might make normal people get angry. Normal people might fuss and fight. Not hackers! Hackers use the elegant power of discussion and understanding.

Lights shift to the build space. ABRI, CHROME, and HUNTER are waiting at the build space for their friends to return. The captured hackers return, amidst a flurry of angry muttering.

PISTON

Fucking bullshit! Why the hell were we caught? Shit!

STORY JACK

Hackers have a very loose definition of “discussion and understanding.”

STORY JACK reintegrates with the FROSHSOMBLE.

RYAN

I’m just glad they let us go home.

CONNOR

Do they normally let you go?

CHROME

Wait, so what happened?

Wank, Wank, Wank!

PISTON

We wouldn’t be in this fucking situation if Abri and Chrome would have done their fucking jobs! We trusted you to be competent, but were you? No! You couldn’t even fucking think to warn us about not one, but four fucking CP’s!

ABRI

Slow down, Piston.

CHROME

Catch your breath.

ABRI and CHROME

You’re overreacting.

ABRI

We sent three transmissions about the CP's we were distracting. If you're looking for someone to pin, why don't you ask Tali why he wasn't telling you about the transmissions.

CHROME

- the first thing we did when we saw the CP's -

ABRI

- guess what we sent you.

CHROME

Hmmm... I wonder...

ABRI

A warning.

CHROME

A fucking warning even.

ABRI

So why didn't you get off the roof?

CHROME

Ask Tali!

TALI

Hey, don't blame me. My IHTFP was broken. There was nothing I could do.

ABRI

The IHTFP's are indestructible! How did yours break?

TALI

I don't know, CONNOR had it when it broke.

ABRI

Why did CONNOR have your IHTFP?

TALI

She wanted to learn how to use one, so I gave mine to her.

FARADAY

Tali, I told you not to give it to her! I said it wasn't a good idea but you insisted.

TALI

It's an upperclassman's job to teach. You probably think you're too good for teaching the freshmen.

FARADAY

Dude, the roof wasn't clear. You should know not to try and play "teacher" in such a high risk situation!

TALI

For your information before I gave my IHTFP to CONNOR, I heard Abri and Chrome say it was "all clear!" Now maybe it's me, but "all clear" doesn't sound like "high risk" so don't blame me, blame them for giving me false information!

(pointing at ABRI and CHROME)

ABRI

Hold on a second.

CHROME

Abri, is that what you said?

ABRI

"All clear?"

CHROME

"All clear."

ABRI

"All clear?" not at all.

CHROME

No, it sounded to me more on the lines of "Alert we have seen some CP's, outside of building 3."

ABRI

Sounds right.

CHROME

The way I remember, we warned you to be careful --

ABRI

-- not that it was --

ABRI and CHROME

"All clear!"

CHROME

So don't blame us!

TALI

You're being ridiculous. Your message could have been interpreted in any way!

Lights shift to KEPLER.

KEPLER

Just look at them. It's just too easy - right on cue, they're turning on each other, looking for a scapegoat. Look what happened to your little family of hackers, Corot - snarling at each other's throats because they finally know just how badly things can go wrong.

Lights shift back to the other hackers.

ABRI

Well, whoever was on IHTFP should have at least heard the "come down now" message.

CONNOR

Okay, maybe I did...

ABRI

You did?

CONNOR

I did, but I'm not sure if I did. I mean I heard something, but it wasn't very loud and I couldn't concentrate... because you were distracting me!

(pointing at Piston)

PISTON

What? Distracting you!

CONNOR

You were yelling at Billy about something stupid, and I couldn't hear!

PISTON

It wasn't something stupid, Billy was a stupid fuck and dropped a fucking tape measure.

CHROME

So that's what that was.

ABRI

That loud noise --

CHROME

Was a tape measure falling?

ABRI

The CP's wouldn't have looked up to the roof if they hadn't heard that...

RYAN

Yeah. Billy dropped it after Tess threw it to him.

PISTON

Why did you have to throw the fucking tape measure anyway?

TESS

He motioned to me to throw it. I thought he could catch it.

RYAN

Come on! Everyone knows that Billy couldn't catch his way out of a paper bag. He can't even catch a cold. He couldn't catch pneumonia if you stripped him naked and strapped him to a metal pole in the dead of winter. He couldn't --

PISTON

(interrupting RYAN)

The little freshmen was probably trying to impress Tess.

BILLY

What?? No! - and it was just a tape measure! How loud could that be?

PISTON

Want to test it?

(picking up a tape measure and aiming for BILLY's head)

Lights shift to KEPLER.

;; sentiment is "my plan is working, but I'm lonely"

Lights shift back to the other hackers.

BILLY

No! Look, even if I dropped the stupid tape measure, you were louder than anything I did on the roof.

TESS

You do have a really loud mouth.

PISTON

Defending your little froshling? It wasn't just the tape measure. They were lying on top of each other and I had to pry the two of them apart!

TESS

That was an accident! Piston, we were just trying to stay low when Corot called out “stay down!”

COROT

Stop!

All fall silent and stare at COROT.

Everyone. Stop. It's my fault - I didn't make us get off the roof fast enough, and I got us caught.

RYAN

Your the reason I had to deal with Miss Crazy-psycho-bitch cop!

COROT

I'm sorry, I was distracted, and I didn't respond as quickly as I should have.

TALI

Damn right you were distracted. You put us all in danger by losing your focus.

COROT

Look. I'm sorry!

(pause, defeated)

It's my fault. I ruined everything. I messed up. Everyone leave, this hack is over.

All exit except BILLY, TESS, and COROT.

KEPLER

(entering the room with intentions to apologize)

Corot, I --

COROT

I told you to leave us alone! Go away!

KEPLER

(stares at COROT, shocked by his response)

Fuck you. I called you in.

KEPLER exits.

BILLY

Why would he call us in? Tess, what's going on?

TESS

Please, shut up and leave.

BILLY

What? Corot --

COROT

You heard her, frosh. Leave!

BILLY exits. Lights fade down on TESS and COROT.

2.3 -- Back in the Day

Lights come up on KEPLER, in another part of the build space, angrily punching the wall, and muttering under his breath. BILLY enters, dejected, but stops short when he sees KEPLER.

KEPLER

Dammit!

KEPLER suddenly realizes he's not alone. He wheels to face BILLY and they stare each other down.

BILLY

(quietly)
Why did you call us in?

KEPLER

Excuse me?

BILLY

Why did you do it?

KEPLER

Why do people do anything? We're all flawed, boo hoo. Go back to your two best friends. I'm sure they'll give you candy and tell you you're perfect and then fucking ditch you some day.

BILLY

They're not my friends.

KEPLER

(laughing)
Aren't you Corot's shiny new "padawan"?

BILLY

No. I hope this is Corot's last hack. He's not the hero I thought he was.

KEPLER

He's never been a hero - just a human, nothing more, nothing less.

BILLY

(sarcastically)
You're pretty poetic.

KEPLER

(looking at BILLY with new eyes)

You're pretty ballsy.

BILLY

(sarcastically)

Thanks.

KEPLER

So he dropped you too, huh? Typical of him.

BILLY

What do you know about Corot?

KEPLER

(laughs bitterly)

Oh, I know Corot, I know him very well.

BILLY

What do you mean?

KEPLER hesitates, looking at BILLY, deciding whether or not to tell him.

KEPLER

When I was a freshman, Corot and I were good friends. We used to go hacking every night. We would explore all sorts of passages and interesting spaces around the institute. It felt like a special world that only we could see ...

Back in the Day, underscore

Lights change to flashback setting. COROT appears and sits next to KEPLER.

COROT

(line spoken in "performance mode")

Pick a number, any number, any one you wish.

KEPLER

Four.

COROT

Nah, we went there yesterday.

KEPLER

One million.

COROT

Dammit, there aren't that many buildings. Let's just wander and see what we can find.

COROT and KEPLER get up and start walking.

Hey, Kepler. What do you think it'll be like to be an elite hacker?

KEPLER

We'll know how to do everything!
Lights illuminate the dome.

COROT

Like rappel off that!
(pointing at the dome)

KEPLER

(echoing COROT's performance mode)
 Counter balance style, of course!
KEPLER bro-clasps COROT.

COROT

No anchor like your friend.
(laughing)

Hey, when we lead our first dome hack, let's do it together!

KEPLER

Of course! I can't wait!

Lights shift back to KEPLER and BILLY.

Hacking together was part of our schedule. We would meet up in Corot's room and if I was late, he'd call me to make sure I wasn't sick. For a while it was just us, then we met Tess, and she joined our adventures.

Lights shift to flashback setting. COROT and KEPLER run onto the scene, short of breath from laughter and adrenaline.

COROT

Wow, that tomb was awesome!

SPRINKLES and KALF enter.

KALF

To COROT and KEPLER, eying them carefully:
 Evening, boys.

COROT

Evening, Officer.

SPRINKLES

I hope you're staying out of trouble. Just heard something strange, sounds like the building's going to --

TESS

(entering, and winking at COROT)

Sorry about all the racket, Officer. I was throwing out a broken sofa.

SPRINKLES

Well, if that's all it was, stay safe, kids.

SPRINKLES and KALF exit. From behind TESS, ABRI and CHROME enter, crawling over the set. They, too, have been hacking. ABRI and CHROME are now interacting much more coyly than they did at the start of the show. They have not yet started dating.

CHROME

To ABRI:

Hey Abri, your back's got dust all over it.

ABRI

Oh!

(starting to brush it off, then changing her mind)

Actually, could you get that? I mean, if it's no problem.

TESS

To ABRI and CHROME:

Hey look, it's Corot and Kepler! They're in my 8.01 recitation.

To COROT and KEPLER:

Exploring?

COROT

Yeah, and thanks for the save with Sprinkles. You guys wanna come with us?

TESS

I'm down!

To ABRI and CHROME:

Wanna join them?

CHROME

I think I should probably go too, actually... I have a 7.012 pset due tomorrow. I'm gonna be fucked.

ABRI

Hey, you're in 7.012? So am I! Wanna work on it together?

CHROME

Yeah, sure, that sounds pretty practical.

ABRI

We'll see you, Tess.

ABRI and CHROME exit.

TESS

See you later.

To COROT and KEPLER:

So, where to?

COROT

We were planning to head to --

TESS

I hope you weren't planning on going to that place Tali found last week. After the incident last night, it's crawling with CP's.

COROT smiles sheepishly.

KEPLER

Wasn't planning on it. Do I look like an idiot?

TESS

(laughing)

No, but he does.

Lights go down on the flashback and up on KEPLER and BILLY.

KEPLER

From then on, the three of us were an unstoppable trio. Any idea Corot came up with, I could implement. And Tess knew how to keep us sane and alive. Corot's greatest dream was to become a legendary hacker. It was easy for us to follow him and we were planning hacks in no time. He always had the energy and the ideas.

BILLY

So if you were such good friends, what changed?

KEPLER

I took an internship in California the summer after freshman year. When I came back, more hacks were in the works, but something was a little off.

Lights change to flashback setting.

COROT

(handing KEPLER a paper with plans for a hack)

Pretty cool, huh?

KEPLER

Yeah! Looks great. Hey, what's this?
(pointing at a spot on the paper)

COROT

A little something Tess and I designed.

KEPLER

Hey, I think we could save some money if we took this out -
(takes out a pencil and scribbles something on the paper)
 you see what I mean?

COROT

No, we need that. Look, Tess and I have been thinking about this, and if you take that out you would have to move that and -- never mind, this will take a too long to explain. We might be too far along in the designs for you to help.

 *Lights shift back to KEPLER and BILLY.*

KEPLER

To BILLY:
 Corot couldn't spare five minutes of his precious time to talk to me, but what hurt more was --

*FARADAY, COROT, and TESS are laughing. KEPLER walks over to them.
 FARADAY is now a peppy, happy, not-sleep-deprived freshman.*

FARADAY

That was awesome! That grad student was totally sketched out, did you see the look on his face?

TESS

(trying to speak through uncontrollable laughter)
 I thought he was going to have a heart attack!

FARADAY

He was probably so sleep deprived he thought he was imagining it!

COROT

Oh, hey Kepler! We just ran into this grad student exiting a shaft and --
COROT catches TESS and FARADAY's eyes and all three burst into uncontrollable laughter. Corot tries to continue his story through his laughter but finds he is unable to do so.

KEPLER

(after watching the others laugh for a moment)
 Sounds like you guys had a lot of fun.

COROT

(still barely able to contain his laughter)

Tess and I just wanted to show Faraday that shaft we found over the summer. Where were you? We tried to find you before we --

KEPLER

Never mind. I was doing work anyway.

Lights go down on the flashback and back to KEPLER and BILLY.

Eventually I gave up. My best friend didn't even notice me anymore. So if he even remembered to invite me to come along I'd just say -

Lights fade from KEPLER and BILLY and fade up on TESS and COROT. TESS and COROT are back in the hacker build space.

COROT

(bitterly)

"I'm too busy". That's what Kepler would have said.

TESS

You can't really believe he's that hosed all that time.

COROT

If he's not, then he should come talk to me.

TESS

Why don't you go talk to him?

COROT

Why can't you go talk to him?

TESS

Look, this is a problem between you two. I'm not taking sides.

COROT

But this is affecting the hack. It's affecting everyone.

TESS

You're right. It is. So be a good leader and go fix it!

COROT

(with a frustrated sigh)

Damn it Tess! Why can't he just say what he means?

Lights come up on KEPLER and BILLY.

KEPLER

To BILLY:

Why can't people ask if you're okay now and again?

COROT

To TESS:

He's a kid begging the world for attention.

KEPLER

He's just a pompous show-off who only cares about his own reputation.

COROT

And sometimes I just wish he would-

KEPLER

Why doesn't he just -

KEPLER and COROT

think!

Lights change back to KEPLER and BILLY.

KEPLER

I don't know what they did after they left me, more hacking, I suppose, more projects. It's just been really hard for me to be around them ever since. You're just a freshman. You're probably still happy and think that life is good or some shit.

BILLY

Sorry that I'm not more depressed.

KEPLER

Don't be. It's not your fault that there are people out there who will take a perfectly good situation and piss all over it.

KEPLER glances around the build space and notices the plans for the design modification that Billy had been drawing.

Those are the plans for the hack?

(observing the papers)

I'd know this mechanism for the roof attachment anywhere. Corot and I designed this for the last hack we did together... It was a good design for a couple of freshmen to whip up, but I still remember one section that was a bit sketchy. I guess he's finally figured out how to fix that...

(reluctant admiration creeps into KEPLER's voice)

and rather elegantly too...

BILLY

Actually, I made the modifications.

KEPLER

Huh. That's... that's actually pretty impressive, for a freshman.

(pause)

Hey. I want to show you something.

(getting up)

You coming?

BILLY hesitates.

It'd be unethical of me to go alone.

BILLY grins and gets up. Start underscore. BILLY follows KEPLER offstage.

BILLY

You want to go hacking with me? Where are we going?

KEPLER

You'll see.

Fade to black.

2.4 -- There's more to Life than Tooling

A faint hum, reminiscent of a machine room is heard as BILLY and KEPLER walk on stage, only illuminated by their own headlamps. They are in a beautiful and eerie section of interstitial space. Along a tall wall are two sign-ins.

BILLY

...what is this place?

KEPLER

Huh, looks like no one else has found it. This tomb is my favorite place at MIT.

BILLY

I've seen those sign-ins everywhere. Who are they?

KEPLER

(indicating the sign ins)

This is me. The other's Corot. We found this place the first night we went hacking without an upperclassman. We were just two freshmen who didn't know their 8.01 and wanted to take a study break. |

KEPLER laughs softly.

This is the first time I've been in here in a while.

KEPLER looks around the room. BILLY watches KEPLER

BILLY

Wow, back in the day you guys were so hardk0re! You've done so much epic stuff!

There's More To Life Than Tooling

KEPLER

THAT'S NOT WHAT HARDK0RE MEANS,
IT MEANS, "I WAS DUMB, BUT I SURVIVED."
THOUGH YOU UNDERSTAND
THAT THERE'S MORE TO MIT,
THAT YOU'VE GOT TO GO EXPLORE,
I'M SICK OF YOUR MANTRA,
STUPID FUCKING KIDS,
YOU ALL WANT TO BE HARDK0RE
YOU JUST WANT TO BE HARDK0RE.

(sighs)

Don't you see?

THERE IS MORE TO MIT

THAN EARNING YOUR DEGREE
 YOU COULD HIDE AWAY ALL DAY WITH DIFF EQ.
 BUT IN THE END,
 WORKING WITH A FRIEND
 IS THE RECIPE FOR LOVING WHAT YOU DO

'CAUSE THERE'S MORE TO LIFE THAN TOOLING DON'T YOU KNOW.

BILLY

I think I see where you're going.

THERE IS MORE TO STUDY BREAKS
 THAN BAKING CHOCOLATE CAKES
 IT MIGHT BE TASTY IF YOU ATE IT ALL
 BUT WHEN YOU'RE IN DISTRESS,
 YOU CAN DECOMPRESS
 BY SHARING WITH THE PEOPLE ON YOUR HALL

THERE'S MORE TO LIFE THAN PUNTING, AND THERE'S MORE TO LIFE THAN
 TOOLING DON'T YOU KNOW.

KEPLER

(sarcastically)
 Interesting metaphor.

BILLY

So maybe cakes aren't your thing. But it seems like friends are. And if it'll bring you
 closer to your friends, it's worth the cake, right?

KEPLER

(smiling genuinely)
 Still sounds stupid, but, hell, you understand.
 THERE IS MORE TO PULLING HACKS

BILLY

- than stories from the Jacks!

KEPLER

Yeah!

KEPLER and BILLY

A HACK IS UP FOR JUST A FLEETING SPAN
 THERE IS NO REAL MEANING
 SPENDING HOURS ON MACHINING
 IF YOUR TEAM'S NO CLOSER THAN IT FIRST BEGAN.

BILLY

WHILE THE CROWDS MAY GAPE IN WONDER,
THERE ARE STORIES THEY'LL NEVER KNOW.

KEPLER

'CAUSE THE REAL MAGIC HAPPENS ELSEWHERE
WITH THE PEOPLE BEHIND THE SHOW.

BILLY and KEPLER

THERE IS MORE TO MIT
THAN WHAT YOUR EYES CAN SEE.
A SOCIAL FABRIC LIKE NO OTHER THRIVES,
AND WHAT GLIMMERS IN THE LIGHT,
THOUGH GLORIOUS AND BRIGHT,
IS JUST ONE CHAPTER IN THE STORY OF OUR LIVES.

IN OUR TIME HERE AT THIS SCHOOL,
WE'LL HACK AND PUNT AND TOOL.
THE MEM'RIES MADE AT MIT LIVE ON.
AND LOOKING BACK YOU'LL SEE
THAT YOU'RE HEART WILL BE
WITH THE PEOPLE WHO STAYED UP WITH YOU TIL DAWN.

The sun begins to rise through a grate in the tomb.

BILLY

THERE'S MORE TO LIFE THAN HACKING,

KEPLER

AND THERE'S MORE TO LIFE THAN PUNTING,

BILLY and KEPLER

AND THERE'S MORE TO LIFE THAN TOOLING DON'T YOU KNOW.

KEPLER smiles at BILLY.

KEPLER

Hey, you should sign in.

BILLY

Whoa, really? But, this is yours and Corot's!

KEPLER

A sign-in doesn't mean we own the place. Tombs are for everyone to discover.

KEPLER reaches into his pocket and pulls out a sharpie. He holds it out to BILLY.

BILLY

I...I haven't picked a sign-in yet.

KEPLER

(after a moment, gently)
How about a dragon wing?

BILLY takes up the pen, and scrawls a dragon wing on the wall.

BILLY

A part of a hack I'll never finish, but it was a good ride while it lasted.

KEPLER

No, the hack you haven't finished yet.

BILLY

But it's almost Halloween.

KEPLER

Don't tell me you've never punted until the last minute.

BILLY

Are you going to help too?

KEPLER

(suddenly returning to his sullen self)
I have to go lab.

BILLY

But wait, maybe you and Corot could --

KEPLER

No. Go build your hack. I'll be fine.

BILLY hesitates, then nods his understanding. BILLY exits. KEPLER follows after a pause to turn back to the wall. As he leaves he runs his hand along the pair of sign-ins.

KEPLER

THERE IS MORE TO LIFE...

KEPLER quietly hums the rest of the phrase as the lights fade on the tomb and the There's more to life than Tooling Underscore continues.

2.45 -- Rebuilding

BILLY enters the hacker space to find RYAN and CONNOR glumly tooling with each other. The other HACKERS are angrily milling about, snarking at each other, group adlib. Example:

TALI

No, no, no! Faraday, I'm not going to bother explaining this to you if you don't listen.

FARADAY

I just asked one question.

TALI

Go work on your own. I have my own tooling to do. Besides, you never like teaching others anyway, so why should I help you?

The arguing HACKERS fade into the background of the scene, shifting focus to RYAN, CONNOR, and the frosh. BILLY taps CONNOR and RYAN and on their shoulders.

RYAN

Billy, where've you been? We can't figure out the last problem of the pset.

BILLY

I can help you with it later, but first I need to go check on the dragon wing. I want to build --

CONNOR

Billy, the hack's over - we need to concentrate on our psets now! We know you're very personally invested in this hack --

RYAN

Yeah, you can't drag us back into this just 'cause you want to impress Tess and Corot.

BILLY

No! I don't even know if they want to finish working on the hack, but I do. And I want you to be there with me! The hack won't be anything if we don't work together! You in?

RYAN

Come on Conner, let's give the pset a break - we already get all the concepts, the rest is just a bunch of stupid algebra.

CONNOR

Oh, alright.

BILLY, CONNOR, and RYAN exit. Lights come up on the build space. BILLY, RYAN, and CONNOR enter and stare at the half-built components of the hack, tools, and materials. The three freshmen look at each other, suddenly nervous.

RYAN

Ok ... so what should we do first?

BILLY looks around the build space, at a loss for a moment. Then, with resolution, he walks over to the table with the design plans.

BILLY

I remember Dragon Wing was mostly done, and we were getting started on the roof attachments. Ryan, how far were you on the Science Box?

RYAN

We'd just run out of solder, but I remember Corot said he'd get more. I wonder if he put it in here somewhere...

Rebuilding

BILLY

HEY, HOW'S IT GOIN'?

RYAN

DOES THIS STUFF FIT? I DON'T KNOW WHAT I'M DOING!

BILLY

Me neither!

CONNOR

LET'S TRY TO FIGURE IT OUT TOGETHER

Slowly, other hackers arrive, and, seeing the hack reborn, decide to join in again. Eventually (after everyone is back), Corot walks in, sees Billy leading the hack and asks if he can help. Billy's fine with that. Corot apologizes for yelling at Billy. Billy tells him not to worry about it - the hack needs him, besides Billy has no idea what he's doing and he needs Corot to lead the hack.

SCENE 2.5 -- Platonic Friends Again

Lights come up on the build space. Hackers are buzzing around, back to building the hack. Spirits are back up. BILLY and TESS walk out of the fray to face each other. Both are a bit tense.

BILLY

Hey Tess.

TESS

Hey Billy.

Awkward pause. Then TESS gives a small smile and looks out on the crowd of busy hackers.

Way to bring everyone back together. It's good to see Corot happy again.

BILLY

He's a good leader. He has a good energy for people to follow.

TESS

I'm sorry if we hurt you.

BILLY

(smiling)

It was a good lesson. And no one died. Hey, Tess. I've been thinking a lot lately about hacking, and friends and I've been thinking, maybe, now we should just be... just friends. Is that okay?

BILLY turns to TESS and holds out his hand.

Friends?

TESS

Friends.

TESS reaches out her hand to shake BILLY's. BILLY hesitates, and then grabs TESS's hand, firmly and very platonically.

BILLY

See, we don't need to worry about the November rule anymore.

TESS

Because we're just friends. I hope from now on, we can be honest and straightforward with each other.

BILLY

I hope we can be honest with each other too!

Platonic Friends Again

BILLY

And since we're both people...

WE CAN SPEAK,

MOST CLEARLY

WITH SUCH PERFECT PATENT TRUE AND HONEST WORDS

TESS

I AGREE

SINCERELY

SINCE THE SPEAKING THAT WE DO -

BILLY

IT'S NOT ROMANTIC!

TESS

Really!

BILLY

True!

TESS

YOU AND I AREN'T AN ITEM

BILLY

WE'RE PLATONIC AS CAN BE

TESS

YES-SIR-EE!

AND IF PEOPLE ASK, WE'LL PROVIDE THEM

WITH ENLIGHTENMENT REGARDING YOU AND ME

BILLY

WHEN I SEE YOU MY HEART DOESN'T FLUTTER,
NO BUTTERFLIES IN MY CHEST!

TESS

That's best!

AND AS YOU GUESSED, IT'S THE SAME FOR ME, LIKEWISE!
YOU NO LONGER ARE THE LOVER THAT I WISH I HAD CARESSED...

OR CUDDLED... **BILLY**

OR EMBRACED... **TESS**

OR SQUEEZED... **BILLY**

Or kissed... **TESS**

And even if we kissed, that would be okay. **BILLY**

TESS
Right.
WE'D JUST BE TWO PLATONIC FRIENDS
WHO KISS
IN A TOTALLY PLATONIC WAY.

The bloodcurdling screech of the NOVEMBAT echoes through the air. The lights flicker angrily, and a giant swooping shadow passes across BILLY and TESS. Upon hearing the noise, BILLY and TESS turn away from each other and stand back to back. The NOVEMBAT, a savage looking nightmare-horror-maw creature, scuttles on stage, crawling, dragging its massive bat wings behind it as it sneaks about the stage, sniffing the air for the scent of romance. Eventually appeased, it leaves.

BILLY
(spoken quickly)
I didn't hear anything!

TESS
(spoken more quickly)
That's the same as me, I just felt like reacting impulsively because we're just friends.
Right?

BILLY
OF COURSE

TESS

THAT'S RIGHT

TESS and BILLY

WE ARE JUST PLATONIC FRIENDS

TESS

WE'RE MORE LIKE BROTHERS THAN LOVERS

BILLY

RIGHT, JUST LIKE ABLE AND CAIN!

TESS

EXCEPT NEITHER OF US COMMITS FRATRICIDE!

BILLY

I could never kill you, because I love you the way a brother loves a brother!

TESS

I know!

YOU'RE THE KIND OF PAL I CAN COUNT ON TO SAVE ME A THEATER SEAT!

BILLY

Any day!

TESS

SO LONG AS THE SEAT YOU ACCOUNT FOR IS AT LEAST A COUPLE DOZEN ROWS AWAY!

BILLY

THAT WAY WE WOULDN'T BE TEMPTED TO HOLD HANDS.

TESS

THOUGH I'LL ADMIT IT WOULDN'T MATTER ONE BIT IF WE DECIDED TO SIT SIDE BY SIDE.

BECAUSE YOU NEVER COULD TEMPT ME

BILLY

OUR LOVE IS EXEMPT

BILLY AND TESS

WE'RE SIMPLY PLATONIC FRIENDS!

BILLY

'CAUSE I SEE IN YOU A FRIEND I'LL NEVER FORGET,
TO PICK ME UP WHEN I'M DOWN ON MY LUCK!

TESS

YES I SEE IN YOU SOMEONE SO SPECIAL TO ME,
SOMEONE I JUST LONG TO -

(taking a step too close to BILLY)

The NOVEMBAT shrieks and pounces onstage, carrying an oblivious offstage hacker with it, who falls onstage, screams and runs off. The NOVEMBAT snarls, gnashes its teeth, and begins to sniff at TESS, who immediately jumps away from BILLY. The NOVEMBAT gives TESS a look: "Watch yourself or the next one won't be a warning," and then slithers away with its hideous deranged laugh.

-- stand very far away from while talking about sports or the weather.

BILLY

I love the weather! I heard it was cloudy once!

TESS

Sometimes partly cloudy.

BILLY

And sometimes the clouds are so soft.

TESS

Sometimes two clouds are held apart by various unexplained weather patterns even though both clouds would rather hold hands.

BILLY

The clouds?

TESS

It's some really upper level course 12 stuff...

BILLY

NO MATTER WHAT WE HAVE WEATHERED,
WE'VE MANAGED TO REMAIN FREE!

TESS

I'M JOYFUL THAT WE'RE NOT TETHERED,
LIKE LOVERS CAN OFTEN BE

BILLY

Right! I've heard that some couples see each other when they close their eyes. We have a healthier relationship!

TESS

WHEN I CLOSE MY EYES, I SEE NOTHING
JUST NOTHING, NOTHING AT ALL
NOT YOU AND I
HOLDING HANDS

BILLY

OR SNUGGLING BENEATH A BLANKET

TESS

WITH NO CLOTHES ON.

BILLY

Let's close our eyes and not imagine it together!

TESS

Yes, lets!

TESS and BILLY close their eyes, and smile. Eventually they both open their eyes and smile at each other.

BILLY

IT'S GOOD TO KNOW IT

TESS

WE'VE GOT SO MUCH TO SHOW IT

BILLY and TESS

WE'RE PLATONIC FRIENDS AGAIN!

BILLY

Come on, let's go finish up the hack! We'll work on it together.

TESS

Like just friends.

Blackout.

SCENE 2.6 -- IHTFP Chatter

IHTFP CHATTER

Lights come up on STORY JACK.

STORY JACK

It was time. The hack was complete. It was the night before Halloween, and the hackers were ready.

The lighting shifts to the hackers who are all dressed in sketchy, black, spy-like garb: trench coats, apertures, holsters, the works (this is the costume/props designer's chance to go wild). STORY JACK reintegrates with the FROSHSOMBLE. The Communications Team: TALI, ABRI, HUNTER, CONNOR and FARADAY, turn on their IHTFP's and begin checking them.

TALI

(over IHTFP)

This is Muse, check.

ABRI

(over IHTFP)

Gochya, This is Flux, check?

HUNTER

(over IHTFP)

Loud and clear, this is Momma, check?

FARADAY

(over IHTFP)

Actually, let me just adjust the volume. Okay, can you transmit again?

HUNTER

(over IHTFP)

Your Momma can transmit again. Now you go, Pre-med!

CONNOR

(over IHTFP)

This is Pre-med, check?!

TALI

(over IHTFP)

I think we are ready to go!

COROT

Everyone's IHTFP working? Scouts head out!

ABRI, HUNTER, and CONNOR exit ahead of FARADAY, who yawns and lags behind.

Hey Faraday, are you good to go?

FARADAY

I was up all-night finishing my 6.005 lab, but I'll be fine.
(shouting and holding up a jolt can as he exits the stage)
 Caffeine works wonders!

COROT shrugs then turns his attention back to the other hackers and snaps into performance mode.

COROT

Tonight is the night. We've gone through a lot to get this hack to the final stretch, and I know that tonight, we'll show the institute once more what we hackers can do! Now let's move!

TALI

(over IHTFP)

Momma this is Muse, you're in the first zone we are coming to. How does your area look? Over.

HUNTER

(over IHTFP)

This is Momma, There are some facility workers cleaning up a flooded bathroom on floor 1 and more facilities waxing floor 2 on those Zamboni things.

TALI

(over IHTFP)

What about floor 3?

HUNTER

(over IHTFP)

Clear. Momma says, come here! Over.

TALI

Boys and girls, we are moving up in the world!

The hackers start heading for the roof of the dome. COROT is in the front of the pack. CHROME is slightly ahead of the group, checking corners and intersections.

CONNOR

(over IHTFP)

Muse this is Pre-med, there is a grad student approaching your location. Over.

TALI gives a signal for COROT to stop. The hackers press their bodies against the wall to avoid being seen. TALI watches the grad student (offstage) pass around a corner and gives a "thumbs up."

TALI

(over IHTFP)

Informational. Wary eye of the grad student averted. over.

ABRI

(over IHTFP)

Muse, this is Flux, I just checked the entrance to the secret short cut, and it looks like some security cameras have been installed. Do not enter. Repeat do not enter until the area is cleared.

FARADAY

(over IHTFP)

This is Cage. I believe I can handle those for you. Okay, Jolt, go time!

FARADAY takes a sip of Jolt and then plugs a USB drive into the wall. He punches buttons on his computer wrist arm band.

Time to work my magic!

FARADAY punches buttons on his wrist arm band more furiously and the cameras power down.

(over IHTFP)

Muse, this is Cage. You are safe to continue.

HUNTER

(over IHTFP)

Muse this is Momma. Be careful in there! You will probably lose contact with us until you come up again.

COROT

Come on.

HACKERS follow COROT through the trap door. COROT holds up his hand for everyone to halt. He reaches in his pocket and throws powder across the room revealing lines of lasers.

PISTON

Lasers must be permeating into the secret chamber from the physics lab!
The HACKERS navigate their way through the laser field.

COROT

Once we pass through the magnetic field chamber, Tali should be able to make contact again.

RYAN

I think we're nearing the field - I can feel it.

HACKERS begin to get pulled to one end of the room.

TESS

Activating the shield!

TESS activates the shield and HACKERS pass through the magnetic field unhindered.

TALI

(over IHTFP)

This is Muse, can anyone hear me?

HUNTER

(over IHTFP)

Your Momma can hear you.

TALI

(over IHTFP)

Informational. We have emerged from the physics lab with only minor magnetic damage. We're resuming our path to building 10.

CONNOR

(over IHTFP)

This is Pre-med. The indicator light on my IHTFP is blinking. My power is low. Over.

FARADAY

(over IHTFP)

Pre-med, this is Cage. Not to worry, all tech men carry batteries!

(pulls battery out of pocket and starts running to meet CONNOR)

HACKERS approach the Edgerton Center, also called Strobe Alley, a hallway filled with displays. The displays begin to move and strobe lights begin to flash.

COROT

Quick, put on your Strobe Protection goggles.

HACKERS obey, cross the room, unharmed, exit, and a cacophony of noises (example: elephant, train, dragon, lute) ensue offstage. HACKERS emerge onto the roof.

Everyone, stay low. The air smells different, Tess, do you smell that?

TESS

(sniffing the air)
It's... it's the MIT weather machine! It's malfunctioning!

TALI

(over IHTFP)
We need someone to recalibrate the MIT weather machine. I think we're going to experience one of it's bouts - worse than the week after CPW!

ABRI

(over IHTFP)
Muse from Flux, I'm near the area, I'll do it!

Strong, screeching wind begins to blow across the roof, nearly knocking the hackers down. HUNTER frantically presses a few buttons on a display in front of her. The wind stops.

(over IHTFP)
This is Flux, the weather machine is all set. Should be clear sailing from here.

TALI

(over IHTFP)
Gotcha.

RYAN

(looks up)
Hey look! There's a giant killer meteor headed straight for us! If we use our arm lasers, we could destroy it before it touches down!

RYAN aims his arm laser towards the sky, ready to fire.

CHROME

Wait, Ryan. This problem is far too big for us. We should call F-IXIT. They'll know what to do.

(gets out a cell phone and dials F-IXIT)
Hello, F-IXIT? I happened to notice a large killer meteor headed for Earth.

(pause)

Yes.

(pause)

Yes.

(to CONNOR and others)

They'll be on it right away.

(hangs up phone)

A giant burst of light fills the sky and a the loud boom echoes through the air.

It's a good thing we were up on this roof.

Lights come up on the lower level where FARADAY is waiting around, yawning.

FARADAY

...been up 44 hours... just need more caffeine

(twitching)

... my good friend, Jolt, you'll keep me stay awake...

(reaching into his pocket, pulls out an empty can)

Shit. Empty.

(yawning)

Oh well... I'll be fine...

TALI

(over IHTFP)

Cage, this is Muse. Can you keep an eye on the perimeter?

FARADAY

(drowsily, over IHTFP)

Yup, all clear.

To himself:

... I should set an alarm...

FARADAY falls asleep. CLAW and PACHINO enter to find FARADAY, asleep.

CLAW

I guess the dorm rooms are getting less and less comfortable.

TALI

(to Corot, giving a thumbs up)

We have an all clear!

COROT

(spoken with the lights still on the CP's)

Okay, let's begin the set up by laying out the corner attachments.

CLAW

In fact, sometimes I think the administration is trying to cram as many people into one --

FARADAY's IHTFP makes a noise.

PACHINO

Hey! What was that?

(kneels down to a now drooling FARADAY and snatches the IHTFP)

CLAW

Is ... is it a bomb?

TALI

(over IHTFP)

Informational. We made it to the roof of building 10. We are going to start setting up.

PACHINO

It's one of those hacker transmission devices. They're on the dome! I'm radio-ing Sprinkles.

(whips out her radio and begins her transmission)

Officer Frey Pachino to Sergeant Bruce Sprinkles. Officer Frey Pachino to Sergeant Sprinkles.

SPRINKLES

(over radio)

Bruce E. Sprinkles here. What is it Pachino?

PACHINO

(over radio)

We found a hacker, and we have confiscated his communication device! We can hear everything the hackers are doing and we know exactly where they are!

CLAW

Don't forget to tell him to alert the bomb squad that this thing might explode. Look at all those blinky lights.

PACHINO

(ignoring Claw, over radio)

You should meet us immediately!

SPRINKLES

(over radio)

They've given us no choice! It's time to activate the plan!

KEPLER is sitting at a desk tooling on his laptop.

KEPLER

This will take forever to compile... I have time to get dinner.

KEPLER gets up and walks into the hallway and bumps into PACHINO who is carrying the IHTFP.

Sorry, Officer.

PACHINO

What are you doing up so late?

KEPLER

I'm an MIT student.

(pause)

I was just getting a --

FARADAY's IHTFP makes a noise and KEPLER looks down at it.

TALI

(over IHTFP)

This is Muse, the attachments are in place and we are almost ready to start.

PACHINO

Just getting a what?

CLAW

Do you need a ride home?

KEPLER

(desperately looking for an escape)

Uh... no... just looking for ... a vending machine... I want a pop tart!

KEPLER exits quickly.

CLAW

Maybe they should make dining mandatory.

PACHINO

Never mind him, we're on the brink of catching the hackers red-handed! Come on, Sprinkles is on his way!

CLAW and PACHINO exit with FARADAY's IHTFP. As soon as they are gone, KEPLER re-enters and attempts to rouse FARADAY.

KEPLER

Faraday? Faraday! Wake up!

FARADAY

Uunnggh...whaa...?

KEPLER

Faraday, the CP's have your IHTFP, where are the others? We need to warn them!
FARADAY is too passed out to be roused.

Balls.

KEPLER picks up FARADAY and drags him offstage. Underscore continues as KEPLER is seen journeying to the roof, exhibiting his I33t skillz.

STORY JACK

With his mind made up, he began his perilous journey to the dome. It wasn't easy, and he ran into obstacles along the way, but he knew if he quit, those on the roof were doomed. And so, knowing the responsibility he had, he moved across the roofs with the grace of a tiger and the skill of a ninja. When the wary eye of the grad student fell upon him, he faded into the shadows as though invisible. He used secret passageways and tunnels long forgotten...

SCENE 2.7 -- Hackers on the Roof

Hackers on the Roof

Kepler emerges onto the roof, exasperated, and explains exactly what happened with Faraday and that the CP's are coming. Corot tells everyone to keep working while he listens to Kepler, but their attention is entirely arrested by Kepler's speech. Billy, Tess, and other hackers look to Corot for the next line of action as soon as Kepler is done.

Corot tells Kepler to get off the roof and leave them alone. He explains how Kepler is responsible for them being caught in the first place, "He called us in! That's why we were caught." This is the first time anyone has heard this officially.

Ensemble echoes Corot in telling Kepler to get off the roof, now completely on Corot's side. Billy approaches Corot to urge him to listen to Kepler, maybe he's right! Corot brushes Billy aside. Desperate to be heard, Billy tells Tess how Kepler helped restart the hack and asks her to talk some sense into Corot. Tess goes to Corot telling him that he should at least fact check: "I can't believe I have to deal with this bullshit" Corot grabs the Tali's IHTFP and tries to contact Faraday. The CP's respond on the other line, pretending to be Faraday (Pachino and Sprinkles fight over the controls, while Claw's voice is heard in the background calling the bomb squad).

Kepler, now vindicated tells everyone to leave the roof: "Everyone head down, Corot and I will clean everything up". Ensemble decides to listen to Kepler and head off the roof immediately.

Corot wants to apologize for not trusting Kepler, but, "dammit man, why did you do all that. We used to be such good friends! I thought I could trust you and then you called us in," he bemoans. "You betrayed us! You betrayed me! Friends don't stab each other in the back!" Kepler doesn't apologize, but instead explains his rationale. "You stabbed me in the back, at least that's what it felt like. We were good friends freshman year, but then you just left me. When I came back next term, you were completely different." "I guess we're both kind of assholes," they agree. "Hey," says Corot, out of the blue. "Can't change the past, so let's make the future awesome." Then Corot proposes the counterbalance. Kepler accepts. The counterbalance occurs.

COROT

(snapping into showman mode)

The counterbalance. Remember?

KEPLER

(remembering)

"There's no anchor like your friend"

COROT bro clasps KEPLER's hand, echoing the handclasp in the flashback.

COROT

Start rigging. Sprinkles is on our tail.

COROT and KEPLER begin preparing to rappel. KEPLER looks at COROT as if he's crazy, then KEPLER returns COROT's grin.

Counterbalance Underscore
KEPLER

Check my harness?

COROT

Doubled back? Looks good. Check mine?

Actors should actually be checking each other, and if something has changed, help the other fix it.

KEPLER

Sweet, looks good. Let's lower the rope. Together.

KEPLER and COROT lower rope, making sure it's not tangled. Actors clip into pre-rigged rappel devices.

COROT

Clipped in and locked.

KEPLER

Clipped in and locked! You ready?

COROT

Mens et Manus, motherfucker!

KEPLER

I'll take that as a yes.

Counterbalance

COROT and KEPLER sing to each other while on rappel about how they forgive each other for the things they've done. Their friendship is rekindled.

COROT

Friends again?

KEPLER

Friends.

KEPLER and COROT bro-clasp.

Let's pull down this rope and get out of here before Sprinkles shows up.

KEPLER and COROT pull down the rope and exit. SPRINKLES, PACHINO, CLAW, and KALF enter on a fire-throwing blimp.

SPRINKLES

All right! Now we've got them! They've got to be up here somewhere! Search every nook and cranny! I'll ready the flame thrower.

KALF

Sir, the roof is empty and we're out of coal.

SPRINKLES looks around and then collapses to his knees and lets out a wail.

SPRINKLES

No! Once again they have slipped through my fingers! But one day... one day, they shall be mine!

(shaking a fist at the sky)

KALF

Come on, there's no use staying up here. Let's get down.

SPRINKLES remains paralyzed and is now whimpering like a puppy. KALF hoists SPRINKLES up to his feet

Let's Get Those Fuckers, reprise

It's over, Sprinkles. They've gotten away. What's more, it's all right. It's fine.

PACHINO

Fine? Fine?! How can you say it's fine!

SPRINKLES

It's our job to keep people safe! We swore to keep them safe!

KALF

THEY'RE NO MENACE NOR A PLAGUE; THEY'RE JUST TRYING TO HAVE FUN
They're not bothering anyone

CLAW

WHAT THEY DO IS PRETTY COOL, IT'S AN EMBLEM OF THE SCHOOL
Even if they bend a rule

KALF and CLAW

LET'S LEAVE THOSE FUCKERS
WE'VE TAKEN THIS TOO FAR
LET'S LEAVE THOSE HACKERS
WE'VE FORGOTTEN WHO WE ARE

SPRINKLES *(slowly)*

I BECAME A COP SO LONG AGO TO SAVE ALL CITIZENS,
I SWORE I WOULD PROTECT THEM FROM ALL TYPES OF AWFUL SINS
BUT MAYBE I LOST SIGHT
THESE HACKERS ARE ALRIGHT
THEIR DEEDS NEVER BRING SORROW, ONLY GRINS

KALF, CLAW, SPRINKLES

THEY'RE NO MENACE NOR A PLAGUE AND THE SCHOOL'S NOT OVERRUN
AND THOUGH WE'VE BEEN OUTDONE
THEY ARE CAREFUL TO BE SAFE AND TO LEAVE NO TRACE BEHIND

CLAW

THEIR WORK IS WELL DESIGNED

KALF, CLAW, SPRINKLES

LET'S LEAVE THOSE FUCKERS
IT'S BETTER WITH THEM AROUND
LET'S LEAVE THOSE HACKERS
WE DON'T HAVE TO HUNT THEM DOWN

PACHINO

I guess you're right, sir.

SPRINKLES

Of course I'm right, goddammit, I'm Sergeant Bruce E. Sprinkles! Come on, let's go
The night may need us - and, Claw, the doughnuts are on me.

*SPRINKLES, KALF, CLAW, and PACHINO board the fire-throwing blimp and fly
away into the night.*

SCENE 2.8 -- Hacking Ethics Reprise

STORY JACK (offstage)

One night later ...

The dome is illuminated, as if by moonlight . The sound of birds chirping is faintly heard. BILLY and TESS appear from behind the dome.

BILLY

(whispering)

Do you think anyone's down there?

TESS

Don't be so nervous. We're fine. Let's just get the Science Box and head down.

BILLY

I can't see it anywhere.

TESS

Maybe the CP's took it.

BILLY

(looking out at the skyline)

It looks so different than it did last night. It's so peaceful. It's like all of the hack, everything, just disappeared and left this instead ... like none of it ever happened.

TESS

Well, they do call it magic.

BILLY

I want to sleep when I get back, it's probably 6am. I used to wake up at this time. You can almost see the sun coming up.

BILLY and TESS look out over Killian Court, watching the sky grow lighter.

Hey, Tess...?

TESS

Yes?

BILLY

We tried deploying the hack the night before Halloween --

TESS

-- which was last night.

BILLY

Yes, and it's past midnight!

TESS

That must mean --

TESS hesitantly reaches out her hand to grab BILLY's. They pause, then grab hands and close their eyes, waiting for the sound of the NOVEMBAT, which never comes. They open their eyes.

TESS and BILLY

It's November!

BILLY

Tess! I've been waiting all this time to tell you that I don't want to be just platonic friends!

TESS

I don't either!

BILLY

That's convenient!

TESS

It's almost practical!

BILLY

Tess?

They kiss.

TESS

What is it Billy?

BILLY

I love ... I love...

TESS

Yeah?

BILLY

I love hacking!

They kiss again, hardk0re, as lights fade on BILLY and TESS. The hum of a machine room once again fills the stage. Lights fade up to reveal STORY JACK, again, wearing sketchy clothing, crawling over the dome.

Hacking Morals

STORY JACK

THE SAFETY OF YOURSELF, OF OTHERS, AND OF FRIENDSHIPS
SHOULD HAVE HIGHEST PRIORITY.
SAFETY IS MORE IMPORTANT
THAN PULLING OFF A HACK
OR GETTING THROUGH A DOOR.

Other hackers begin to enter the stage.

BILLY and TESS

BE SUBTLE,
ESPECIALLY IF OTHERS OBJECT

HUNTER

LEAVE NO EVIDENCE YOU WERE SKETCHING ON THE FROSH

KEPLER

BRUTE FORCE
IS THE LAST RESORT
OF THE INCOMPETENT.
SOMETIMES CONVERSATION WORKS BETTER

COROT

(shaking hands with KEPLER)
LEAVE THINGS AS YOU FOUND THEM OR BETTER.
CAUSE NO PERMANENT DAMAGE
DURING HACKS
AND WHILE HACKING
- FRIENDS INCLUDED.

RYAN

IF YOU FIND SOMETHING CATASTROPHIC, CALL F-IXIT*.
**pronounced "Fix it"*

CONNOR

DO NOT STEAL ANYTHING;

AND WHEN YOU BORROW,
ASK FOR HELP

TALI
BE COURTEOUS ENOUGH TO LEND A HAND

PISTON
DO NOT DROP THINGS WITHOUT A GROUND CREW

BILLY
OR FOR THAT MATTER ON A ROOF!

BILLY and KEPLER
SIGN-INS ARE NOT GRAFFITI
AND SHOULD NOT BE SEEN
BY THE GENERAL PUBLIC
BECAUSE THE GENERAL PUBLIC WOULDN'T UNDERSTAND!

KEPLER and COROT
SIGN-INS EXHIBIT
ONE'S PRIDE IN HAVING FOUND
AN INTERESTING LOCATION
AND SHOULD ONLY BE SEEN BY OTHER HACKERS.

COROT
IT DOESN'T MATTER HOW BIG THE ROOM

KEPLER
OR HOW EPIC THE SHAFT.

COROT and KEPLER
SO LONG AS IT'S SPECIAL, IT'S SOMETHING YOU CAN SHARE AND REMEMBER.

HUNTER
NEVER DRINK AND HACK.
EAT LOTS OF COOKIES,
AND SHARE WITH FRIENDS

ABRI and CHROME
NEVER HACK ALONE.
HAVE SOMEONE WHO CAN GET HELP
IN AN EMERGENCY.

CHROME

AND IT DOESN'T HURT IF SHE'S GOT NICE BREASTS.

CONNOR

KNOW YOUR LIMITATIONS AND DO NOT EXCEED THEM.

BILLY

IF YOU DO NOT KNOW
HOW TO OPEN A DOOR,
OR CLIMB A SHAFT,
THEN LEARN FROM SOMEONE WHO KNOWS
BEFORE TRYING.

TESS

WE CAN ACCOMPLISH IT TOGETHER
IF WE CAN LEARN FROM ONE ANOTHER

RYAN and CONNOR

LEARN HOW NOT TO GET CAUGHT,
BUT IF YOU DO GET CAUGHT,
ACCEPT GRACEFULLY
AND COOPERATE FULLY.

SPRINKLES, KALF, PACHINO, CLAW

BEACUASE WE'LL BE NICE,
WE UNDERSTAND HACKERS AREN'T REAL CRIMINALS

COROT and BILLY

SHARE YOUR KNOWLEDGE
AND EXPERIENCE
WITH OTHER HACKERS.

ALL

AND ABOVE ALL, EXERCISE COMMON SENSE.

Blackout.