

editing notes

Red = shit

Purple = zb

orange = dra

Blue = t^2

green = jasminef

## Hack, Punt, Tool

### SCENE 1.0 -- Welcome to TFP

Vomit lyrics: Welcome to This Fucking Place, where you'll never get any sleep. You'll pset til dawn, til your energy's gone, unless you drink an espresso shot. Welcome to MIT, you'll spend all night in lab working for a grad student. Get ready to be eternally hosed. You'll code til you're blue in the face and you'll integrate til your brain degrades. You'll live off ramen and month old bread. The you'll freeze in the winter, damn it gets cold. You'll spend hours studying and still fail your tests. You'll rejoice at mediocrity. That's what it means to go to MIT. But at night the students come out to play, we work hard, but we play like hell. The night is when we thrive and can finally be ourselves!

### SCENE 1.1 -- Tomb of the Unknown Tool

*The stage is dark. The faint hum reminiscent of a machine room is heard from the stage. STORY JACK steps out of the darkness, wearing all black and looking quite sketchy.*

#### STORY JACK

*(To the audience)*

Hi Everybody!

#### OFFSTAGE VOICES

Hi Jack!

#### STORY JACK

Gather round, gather round! It's all right, you can come closer than that - don't be shy!

*(clears throat)*

Welcome to the Masochistic Institute of Technology, otherwise fondly known as MIT. Here, sleep is for the weak and [some other commonly said phrase]. Here we tool, we punt, and we hack.

#### RYAN *(offstage)*

Hey Jack, what's hacking?

## STORY JACK

Good question! At MIT, the word “hack” has two common meanings. “Hacking” is the **creative** exploration of **your environment** **unconventional spaces within buildings** MIT’s more “untraveled” passages. Right now, we are hacking. A “hack” is also a clever, benign, and “ethical” prank or practical joke, which is both challenging for the perpetrators and amusing to the MIT community.

*(gestures to the space around him)*

The location in which we now find ourselves is called a tomb. A tomb is a small bit of space left over from when a building was remodeled. Behind me, you’ll notice some writing on the wall. This -

*(flourish of music)*

- is the Hacking Code of Ethics, a set of moral principles that all hackers practice, the guidelines to which we noble hackers adhere.

*(clears throat)*

## ~~~~~Song: Hacking Ethics~~~~~

*(lines said in dim light with spot on person singing, if possible use flashlight(s) pointing at people)*

## STORY JACK

THE SAFETY OF YOURSELF, OF OTHERS, AND OF PROPERTY  
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)*

## HUNTER

BE SUBTLE;  
LEAVE NO EVIDENCE  
YOU WERE THERE.

## PISTON

BRUTE FORCE IS  
THE LAST RESORT OF THE INCOMPETENT.

## TALIA

LEAVE THINGS AS YOU FOUND THEM OR BETTER.  
CAUSE NO PERMANENT DAMAGE DURING HACKS AND WHILE HACKING.

**TALIA and HUNTER**

IF YOU FIND SOMETHING BROKEN, CALL F-IXIT\*.

*\*(pronounced Fix it)*

**FARADAY**

DO NOT STEAL ANYTHING;  
IF YOU MUST BORROW SOMETHING,  
LEAVE A NOTE SAYING WHEN IT WILL BE RETURNED  
AND REMEMBER TO RETURN IT.

**ABRI**

DO NOT DROP THINGS WITHOUT A GROUND CREW

**CHROME**

TO MAKE SURE NO ONE IS UNDERNEATH.

**FARADAY**

SIGN-INS ARE NOT GRAFFITI  
AND SHOULD NOT BE SEEN BY THE GENERAL PUBLIC.

**PISTON**

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

**PISTON and FARADAY**

REAL HACKERS ARE NOT PROUD OF DISCOVERING LOBBY 7, RANDOM  
BASEMENTS, OR RESTROOMS.

**STORY JACK**

KEEP SIGN-INS SMALL AND RESPECT OTHER HACKERS' SIGN-INS.

**HUNTER**

NEVER DRINK AND HACK.

**ABRI and CHROME**

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

**STORY JACK**

KNOW YOUR LIMITATIONS AND DO NOT EXCEED THEM.

**TESS**

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

**COROT**

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

**KEPLER**

SHARE YOUR KNOWLEDGE AND EXPERIENCE WITH OTHER HACKERS.

**ALL**

ABOVE ALL, EXERCISE COMMON SENSE.

**STORY JACK**

Now that you know the code of ethics, I'd like to tell you a story. This story takes place long, long ago; back in the day when things were more hardk0re.

*(Lights begin to come up behind STORY JACK, illuminating BILLY, carrying his luggage.)*

Our story unfolds with a wee little frosh, ready and eager to begin his journey at the this Masochistic Institute of Technology. His mind was ready to be filled with knowledge, as many froshling minds are.

**BILLY**

*(spoken to offstage parents)*

Bye mom! Bye dad!

**V.O. MOM**

Do you have your sweater?

**BILLY**

Yeah, mom, it's somewhere in here. I'll see you winter break!

*RAY/MARIA STATA (depends on gender of actor) enters, carrying a textbook, reading without looking up. STATA bumps into BILLY.*

**STATA**

Oh! Sorry, sorry about that. Oh, hello, **I assume** you must be my suite-mate.

**BILLY**

Yeah! Oh, hey, my name's Billy!

**STATA**

Billy? Hi, Maria/Ray Stata. Most people call me Stata.

*Billy extends his hand for a handshake. STATA turns the page without looking up. Billy shrugs off the rejection, humming the theme of "I want to Be Hardk0re." After a beat.*

**BILLY**

You're studying already?

**STATA**

Yeah, I'm getting ready for the math placement diagnostic!

**BILLY**

Does that test count for anything? I thought no one even looks at that.

**STATA**

Well, it's not for a grade or anything, but I want my advisor to be impressed! I have to impress him if I want to take 5.12 this semester.... I mean, I really can't wait, right? It really won't fit in the spring, right? I mean, with my current *plan*... Do you have a plan?

**BILLY**

Me? My academic plan? I've got better plans... bigger plans.

~~~~~Song: I Want To Be Hardk0re~~~~~

THE WORLD IS COMPLICATED,  
IT'S NOT WRITTEN IN A BOOK.  
YOU HAVE TO GO DISCOVER IT.  
LIKE ACTUALLY GO OUT AND LOOK.  
I WANT TO FIND THINGS NO ONE ELSE HAS SEEN,  
IT'S THE SPIRIT TO EXPLORE  
DOWN IN THE DARK, IN THE TUNNELS AND THE STEAM  
I WANT TO BE HARDK0RE.  
I'M NOTHING IF I CAN'T BE HARDK0RE!

The buildings here were built all at different times, and they don't fit perfectly together. It leaves lots of hidden spaces, just waiting to be found. Think of the possibilities!

THERE ARE SHAFTS THAT SHOOT UP MANY STORIES,  
AND TOMBS ABOUND IN EVERY CRAG  
AND TO THE FINDER GOES THE GLORY  
OF LEAVING THEIR OWN PERSONAL TAG!  
CLIMBING PIPES AND BITS OF SLAG.

**STATA**

That sounds pretty crazy... (*STATA goes back to reading*)

**BILLY**

I know, but I want to be a little crazy.

WE ALL CHEER FOR THE MAGICIAN,  
WATCH THE ARTIST PAINT A SCENE.  
MAKING SOMETHING OUT OF NOTHING.  
'CAUSE WE'RE NOT JUST MERE MACHINES.

I WANT TO FLEX MY CREATIVITY,  
SHOW THE WORLD I'M SOMETHING MORE.  
I DO NOT WANT ANY PUBLICITY  
I JUST WANT TO BE HARDK0RE!  
PLEASE GOD LET ME BE HARDK0RE!

[this verse doesn't strike me as very hardk0re, I'm left feeling unimpressed]

Doesn't that excite you? Don't you just feel... electric?

**STATA**

No, Covalent. Not charged at all. Sorry, I think I'm going to go study. I can't focus when you-

**BILLY**

I just get this excited feeling! I wish you could understand! I need to tell you. I need to tell everyone!

**STATA**

You're gonna sing again, aren't you.

**BILLY**

I am!!

*(BILLY leaves to sing to more freshmen, STATA rolls eyes)*

[VERSE B2]

This verse will be about real hacks. Freshmen join in.

[VERSE A3]

This verse will be about how frosh sees the hackers kind of like superheros

*BILLY is now standing outside and sees two upperclassmen, TESS and COROT talking.*

**TESS**

I'm stoked! Of course I'm in. Tuesday night, right?

**COROT**

Yeah! Midnight. Hacker Standard Time. Same as always.

*(Waves to another upperclassman passing by)*

Hey Hunter.

**TESS**

Awesome! Right! Hey, Corot, who's going to be there? Any of the freshmen getting involved?

**COROT**

Yeah, a lot of them, actually. Some of them are really excited.

*(pause)*

I want to make this hack special for them, you know? Remember our first hack? Man, Tess, it was so-

**BILLY**

Excuse me, I couldn't help but overhear, are you pulling...

*(pauses and checks to make sure no one's looking, then drops to a whisper)*

a hack?

*(COROT and TESS turn to face BILLY and pause, then look at each other skeptically)*

**COROT**

*(to BILLY)*

I don't think I've seen you before.

**BILLY**

I'm Billy. I'd like to help you. I mean, if that's okay. I'll stay out of the way and won't be a bother! I'm really interested in this kind of stuff!... Well?

**COROT**

I don't know.

*(giving TESS a knowing look)*

What do you think Tess?

**TESS**

*(giving COROT a knowing look)*

Let's test him.

**COROT**

A little "examination" never hurt anyone. Get used to it kid, welcome to MIT.

**BILLY**

Sure... What do you want me to do?

*(COROT suddenly becomes extremely presentational, over-enunciating and making exaggerated expressions.)*

**COROT**

Question 1!

**TESS**

DUHN, DUHN, DUHN!!

**COROT**

Name a hack!

**BILLY**

Uh... There was that police car that someone put on the dome once.

**COROT**

Correct! You are sharper than I thought, young froshling, I commend you. Question 2.

**TESS**



OOOOOO!

**COROT**

What was the first hack?

**BILLY**

I... I don't really -

**TESS**

(whispering to BILLY)  
A Ford Model T...

**BILLY**

(to COROT excitedly)  
A Ford Model T!

**COROT**

And where was it?

**BILLY**

It was on... the... dome-(never finishes the word "dome")

**TESS**

(whispering to BILLY)  
East Campus rooftop.

**BILLY**

I mean East Campus roof! East Campus roof! It was a Ford Model T on East campus roof!

**COROT**

Correct! Are you now ready for ... the final question?

**TESS**

Gasp!

**COROT**

Question 3. Why do you think you have what it takes?

**BILLY**

To be...

*(pauses hesitantly)*

a hacker?

**COROT**

*(most grandly of all!)*

Yes, to be a hacker!!

[BILLY sings a verse sounding like “I want to be Hardk0re” and convinces them, make it more like a bridge?]

**TESS**

Yeah, sure, I don’t see why not. Corot?

**COROT**

*(dropping his showy act)*

I’m convinced.

**BILLY**

Cool! When do we start? What can I help with?

**COROT**

Chill, we haven’t even had our first official meeting yet. By the way, I’m Corot, and this is Tess. What’s your name again?

**BILLY**

It’s Billy! When’s the first meeting?

**TESS**

It’s Tuesday at midnight.

**COROT**

**And** Don’t be early!

*(TESS and COROT exit)*

**BILLY**

My first hack... yes! I’m in!

[lyric suggestion]

I'M GONNA BE HARDK0RE!

I'M REALLY GONNA BE HARDK0RE!

I'M GONNA BE HARDK0RE!!

*Blackout*

### **SCENE 1.3 -- Intro of Upperclassmen**

#### **STORY JACK**

And so our little freshmen joined his first hack, and merrily returned to his dorm, his head filled with images of borrowed cannons, UFO's, upside down lounges, and dreams of being the most hardk0re hacker of all times! Meanwhile, our hackers were madly preparing for the most epic hack ever performed!

*Lights up on a lounge. HUNTER is at a table covered in cookie making ingredients, mixing batter. ABRI, FARADAY and PISTON are sitting on couches working on laptops. TESS and COROT enter.*

#### **COROT**

*(to HUNTER)*

Whoa, cookies! Cookies! Cookies! Are those for the meeting tonight?

#### **HUNTER**

What meeting? Oh, right -

*(laughs)*

I just felt like trying this new chocolate chip rum-monster gingersnap recipe, but of course I'll need tasters.

#### **COROT**

*(rubbing his stomach)*

Well, there's a whole army of them right here, at your service.

#### **PISTON**

Hey Corot, are we really gonna have to find a job for every eager n00by frosh that wants in on this hack? Half of them will flake anyway.

#### **ABRI**

*(grinning, a friendly jab)*

What are you talking about, we'll just give them your job when you get too hosed to help out with anything but deploy.

**COROT**

Don't worry, there's plenty to do and inevitably everyone except the frosh will get hosed - even you Piston. You're not on pass/no record anymore.

**TESS**

*(to PISTON)*

And where would you be if we weren't in the habit of taking in eager n00by frosh?

*CHROME and TALIA enter*

**CHROME**

Short on free labor, probably. Ooo, cookies! Can I have a bite of the dough?

**HUNTER**

Sure. If they turn out well I'll make some for build meetings to help bribe people to come work.

**TALIA**

*(grins)*

Thanks Momma. Hey Tess, did you have a chance to look at the specs I emailed you for the rooftop attachment? Does anything look blatantly non-structural?

**TESS**

Don't think so. We'll have to leave room for the power supply during deploy, but we should be fine.

**TESS**

Yeah, everything looked fine to me.

**PISTON**

My only problem is..."Dragon Wing"? Is that really what we're calling this component?

**TESS**

*(laughs)*

Sure, why not? It's a nice, grand name to impress our little froshlings.

**FARADAY**

Hey Chrome, is the arduino in yet?

**CHROME**

It's supposed to be delivered either today or tomorrow. When I checked my mail earlier it wasn't here, so I'm thinking it'll be here tomorrow. By the way, did you get number 5 on the 6.012 pset?

**FARADAY**

**Was that the one about MOS devices?** I think I have it mostly figured out, but I'm working on an essay for another class right now - wanna talk about it after tonight's meeting?

*KEPLER enters*

**CHROME**

Sure - I don't think I'll be sleeping tonight anyway, I have 2 psets due tomorrow and once we start the hack, I'm gonna be be fucked.

**ABRI**

By psets? I thought that was my job.

**CHROME**

We could **bang** while I'm working if you want, but somehow I don't think it's practical.

**ABRI**

I guess you're right.

**COROT**

Just so long as you're focused when we put this thing up. Hey Kepler, what's up?

**KEPLER**

East cross North.

*(motions the right-hand rule)*

What are you kids doing?

**PISTON**

Hey Kepler, saw you talking to a cute one last night - how did that go?

**KEPLER**

*(shrugs)*

Meh. **Nice legs, but she bored me to tears.** I think she's still unconscious.

**HUNTER**

*(rolls eyes)*

Ever the perfectionist, I see.

**PISTON**

I still really hate the name “Dragon Wing”.

**KEPLER**

*(raises an eyebrow)*

“Dragon Wing”?

**COROT**

Don’t worry about it.

**CHROME**

The name’s not important anyway. I’m gonna go work on that pset.

**ABRI**

I’ll cum with.

*CHROME and ABRI exit.*

**PISTON**

*(grumbling)*

But I still don’t like the name...

**TESS**

*(pats PISTON on the shoulder)*

Just think of it as a working title.

**KEPLER**

Working title for what?

**TESS**

*(brightly, genuinely and obviously friendly)*

Oh, just a group project we’re working on. It’ll be better if it’s a surprise!

*(pause)*

**KEPLER**

Sure.... If you say so.

**FARADAY**

Hey Kepler, you're course 6, right? Wanna give me some tips on working with arduinos?

**KEPLER**

Is this for your secret project?

**FARADAY**

Um, sure? Er, no.

**KEPLER**

Come on, I know this must be for a hack. Just tell me, it's not like I'm going to march down to the police station and tell the cops.

**SCENE 1.4 -- Police Station**

*Lights fade up on STORY JACK.*

**STORY JACK**

Meanwhile, there was another group of people on campus. But they didn't wear cargo pants or have multicolored hair. They all wore blue and had these funny octagonal hats...

*The lights, fade down on STORY JACK and come up on a cluttered, brightly lit police station. Filing cabinets and desks are littered with important looking and unimportant looking paperwork. The trashcan is full of boxes of "Dunkin' Donuts." A coffee machine sits on a desk, half-full of old coffee. OFFICER BERRY CLAW sits at a desk reading a copy of The Tech and an empty box of "Dunkin' Donuts" sits nearby. SERGEANT BRUCE E. SPRINKLES sits in a swivel chair facing an upstage window. CLAW grunts and checks the empty doughnut box. OFFICER DEEDEE KALF enters and throws and throws a cigarette but into the trash.*

**CLAW**

Officer Kalf, could you get me another doughnut?

*(hands KALF the empty box and indicates to throw it away)*

**KALF**

Uh, sure, Officer Claw. Did you eat them already?

*(KALF takes the box to the trashcan and goes into the backroom to get more.*

*She soon reenters with a full box of doughnuts for CLAW)*

*OFFICER FREY PACHINO bursts into the room, fuming and carrying a giant sign bearing the "Dunkin' Donuts" logo.*

**KALF**

Officer Pachino? ... What is it?

**CLAW**

A "Dunkin' Donuts" sign? But Frey... why do you have a-

**PACHINO**

It was stuck to the side of my patrol car this morning! I didn't notice it until I'd stepped out!

**CLAW**

Hasn't that always been there?

**KALF**

Stuck? Is it a magnet? Their signs are magnetic?

**CLAW**

But... but where did it... Who... who would put a sign on our car?

**SPRINKLES**

*(still staring out the upstage window)*

Those Goddamned Hackers -

*(the chair swivels forward)*

- that's who!

**KALF**

Hackers! Hackers!?

**PACHINO**

NOOOOOOOO!



**KALF**

Those no good rascals!

**SPRINKLES**

Well they've embarrassed us for the last time.

**CLAW**

They have?

**SPRINKLES**

You bet they have! Yes... this time they've picked a fight they can't win, not in a long shot! They've picked a fight with Sergeant Bruce E. Sprinkles, and no one messes with Sergeant Bruce E. Sprinkles! No one! In the name of William Barton Rogers, something must be done!

[This feels too campy now that we've worked on tightening up the rest of the script]

~~~~~ LET'S GET THOSE FUCKERS ~~~~~

SPRINKLES

THEY'RE A MENACE AND A PLAGUE AND THIS SCHOOL IS OVERRUN.

'TIL NOW WE'VE BEEN OUTDONE.

WE'LL HUNT THOSE HACKERS DOWN AND GET THEM ALL EXPELLED.

THE LAW MUST BE UPHELD.

LET'S GET THOSE FUCKERS,

AND STAMP THEM OUT FOR GOOD.

I HAVE A FINE IDEA TO ACCOMPLISH ALL OUR GOALS,

THE ONLY WAY TO DO THIS IS TO INCREASE OUR PATROLS.

PATROLS? PATROLS!

WE'LL TRIPLE OUR PATROLS

THE MORE THAT WE CAN SEE, THE LESS THEY'LL WANDER FREE,

WITH ALL OF US WE'LL KEEP THEM IN CONTROL.

CLAW

BUT AS YOU KNOW THEY'RE CLEVER, THEY WILL BEAT THAT IN A SNAP

THE ONLY WAY TO DO THIS IS TO LAY SOME BOOBY TRAPS.

TRAPS? TRAPS!

QUICK! GET A CAMPUS MAP.

THEY'LL GET TO EVERY DOOR, BUT THEY'LL FIND ALARMS IN STORE,

WHILE ROOFTOP SENSORS FILL IN EVERY GAP.

ALL

THEY'RE A MENACE AND A PLAGUE AND THIS SCHOOL IS OVERRUN.  
'TIL NOW WE'VE BEEN OUTDONE.

WE'LL HUNT THOSE HACKERS DOWN AND GET THEM ALL EXPELLED.  
THE LAW MUST BE UPHELD.

LET'S GET THOSE FUCKERS,  
AND STAMP THEM OUT FOR GOOD.

KALF

WE'LL HAVE TO GO MUCH FARTHER, WE MUST THINK OUTSIDE THE  
DOME,  
THE ANSWER'S CLEAR WE'LL HAVE TO GET SOME HACKER SNIFFING  
DRONES.

DRONES? YES, DRONES!

SOME HACKER HUNTING DRONES.

WITH SENTIENT MACHINES, WE'LL HAVE THEM QUARANTINED.  
THE HACKERS' REIGN WILL SOON BE OVERTHROWN.

SPRINKLES

NO MORE CARS ON THE DOME,  
OR COWS OR WORKING PHONES.

WITH DOILIE IN CHARGE, THEY WILL MEET THEIR ULTIMATE END.

PACHINO

THERE'S ONE LAST STEP TO GUARANTEE WE'LL END THAT HORDE OF  
IMPS,

WE'LL BUILD A FLEET OF SELF-SUFFICIENT FIRE THROWING BLIMPS!  
BLIMPS? YES BLIMPS!

HURL FIREBALLS FROM BLIMPS.

WHEN FLAMES COME FROM THE SKY, THE HACKERS' PLANS WILL FRY!  
I THINK THOSE KIDS WILL FINALLY TAKE THE HINT.

ALL

THEY'RE A MENACE AND A PLAGUE AND THIS SCHOOL IS OVERRUN.  
'TIL NOW WE'VE BEEN OUTDONE.

WE'LL HUNT THOSE HACKERS DOWN AND GET THEM ALL EXPELLED.  
THE LAW MUST BE UPHELD.  
LET'S GET THOSE FUCKERS,  
AND STAMP THEM OUT FOR GOOD.

SPRINKLES  
LET'S GET THOSE FUCKERS,  
AND STAMP THEM OUT FOR GOOD.

*Maniacal Laughter.*

*Blackout.*

## SCENE 1.5 -- Planning Meeting

*Lights come up on a lounge space. TESS, and some of the HALL FRESHMEN and UPPERCLASSMEN ENSEMBLE are already present at the meeting. Some UPPERCLASSMEN and HALL FRESHMEN are standing, some are sitting. BILLY enters, looks around, and waves to TESS.*

**BILLY**

Hey! Tess, right? Remember me? I'm here for the hack meeting! So when do we start the hack?

*All the upperclassmen in the room laugh and look at TESS conveying the message of ``Why did you invite him?''*

**CHROME**

Who is this freshmen?

**BILLY**

Hi, my name's Billy!  
*(extending a hand to CHROME who stares at him intensely, as if he is a ghost)*

**TESS**

*(with a kind smile)*

He says he wants to help. It's cool, he's just another freshman who wants to be our build bitch.

**BILLY**

Yeah, I really think this will be fun. I want to learn how to be a hacker.

**TESS**

Sure, Sure...Why don't you take a seat?

**BILLY**

So, how do you get things on the dome? Do you use a helicopter? Or maybe a crane? Actually, if you use weather balloons... You're not listening to me, are you?

**TESS**

*(fast cut-off, doesn't even look up)*

I'm listening.

Dude, just chill out, we'll get to all that.

**HUNTER**

You're froshy as hell!

**BILLY**

I'm not "froshy!" Wait, What does "froshy" mean?

*(COROT enters carrying a dramatically large scrolled up map)*

**COROT**

*(To TESS)*

~~Hey, I just printed the plans.~~ Sorry I'm late, I just printed the plans and Athena took forever. Looks like we've got enough people here to start?

**TESS**

Yeah, sure.

*TESS walks over to the wall, turns out the lights. leaving only a spot light on the map. TESS then sits down with the group.*

**COROT**

Welcome, everyone to the first hack of the semester. A few of us have met to work out the engineering details, but this is the first time we're all in the same room.

*Excited chatter buzzes through the room*

*(snapping into "performance mode")*

Our target:

*COROT unfurls the map and pins it to the wall in the projector light. The map is a map of MIT campus, but in addition to the usual hallways and tunnels, "secret" (real or fake or both) paths are marked. Zig-zags and arrows cross the map at all angles in different colors making it look almost like a football play board.*

Here!

*COROT points to the dome and freshman murmur excitedly. Ad libs: "It's the dome!" "Is this the big one or the small one?"*

Don't get too excited. Pulling a hack is more than putting something clever on a roof. We need to think these things through. A hack is premeditated, calculated; a hack is safe and ingenious. We put up hacks because they are novel.

**HUNTER**

W00t! Sell it!

## PISTON

Shut up, Hunter! He's impressing the frosh!

*Hunter rolls her eyes.*

## COROT

What makes them work is that we think before we act. And when we act, we act deliberately! Every movement, perfectly practiced, choreographed more spectacularly than any show you'd see on stage. It is an art. An art of tactics, an art of skill, an art of passion!

*(By the end of this line COROT is looking into the distance and is speaking grandly. Switches out of "performance mode")*

So before we start nit-picking about the details let's get organized.

*COROT pulls some papers out of his coat and passes them into the crowd.*

Okay, I've printed out the design plans we've come up with so far. Check 'em out.

*Each person takes a paper and scrutinizes it. Ad libs: "Is this a resistor or a transistor?" "That's brilliant!" "So... the p-chord goes... where?" "I love when we use dexion. We should use it more often." "Is there a second page? ... Oh! I see!" etc.*

*TESS high fives COROT, upon hearing the success of the plans.*

Okay, Tess says she can head making the Dragon Wing.

*TESS waves.*

and Faraday has already volunteered to program the Arduino.

*FARAYDAY waves*

But we're still looking for someone to take charge of Newton's Cradle -

*Everyone gives awkward stares to Corot.*

- don't worry, we're changing the name **once we think of something better**. It would be nice if the person in charge has rigging experience.

*ABRI and CHROME raise their hands.*

And bondage doesn't count.

*ABRI and CHROME lower their hands.*

## LORENTZ

I could do that. I've been training with Spider.

## COROT

Cool. I'll put you down, Lorentz.

## FARADAY

Could I have some help with the Arduino? It would save a lot of time if I could have

someone there to be my soldering bitch. Wanna learn how to solder, frosh? Now's your chance!

**RYAN**

I'll do it!

**FARADAY**

*(looking at LEAD in a complaining manor)*

Could I have someone else?

**COROT**

Uh, okay...someone else?

*Pause.*

**RYAN**

Uh... I guess I'll do it...

**FARADAY**

Awesome. Cheap labor.

**COROT**

Now let's make this happen. This hack will take many weeks to accomplish. It won't just be a walk in Killian court. The hack is riding on each of us. Some nights, we may have to put our tooling aside -

**ANNA**

*(cutting COROT off)*

What if we have psets? Do we have to come to the builds if we have psets the next day?

**TESS**

Psets or not, I'll be here.

**PISTON**

Don't be a tool.

**FARADAY**

Come on, Pass no record!

**CHROME**

The most important equation you learn freshmen year...

## ABRI & CHROME

A=B=C=P

*KEPLER enters carrying his laptop.*

## COROT

Cool, everything seems to be all set. How many people could make a build session tomorrow night?

*TESS and BILLY and the rest of the FRESHMEN raise their hands immediately. Then FROSH, then UPPERCLASSMEN slowly join them, ABRI raises her hand, but not CHROME. ABRI then pokes CHROME and CHROME then raises her hand.*

Good! See you tomorrow. I'll send out an email with the time. We have a long way to go...

*COROT removes the map from the wall, curls it up, and carries it off. COROT acknowledges KEPLER. KEPLER ignores the acknowledgement. Everyone except for BILLY, TESS, and KEPLER begin to filter out, ad libbing appropriate or lewd banter.*

## BILLY

Hey Tess, what should I bring? Do I need tools?

## TESS

That would be great if you have them. So, Billy, what did you think of your first hack meeting?

## BILLY

It was really cool! **It was** so epic!

## HUNTER (offstage)

Froooooosssssshhhhhhhhyyyy!!!

## TESS

*(laughing gently)*

See you tomorrow.



*Tess exits.*

**BILLY**

All right!

*(Looks at his packet of plans confusedly. Notices KEPLER in the corner, staring at his computer screen.)*

Hey, I noticed you came in late. Do you wanna look at the plans?

**KEPLER**

No.

**BILLY**

Aren't you helping with the hack too... um... what's your name?

**KEPLER**

Kepler, and no. I'm not helping.

*Trying to get away from BILLY*

**BILLY**

Why not?

**KEPLER**

I'm too busy. I have such interesting things to do, like writing a compiler to not give a shit, or deriving the formula for no one cares.

*KEPLER walks away*

**BILLY**

Remind me never to take that class.

*Billy exits and immediately reenters eating a bag of chips. People are starting to enter as individuals/ small groups carrying on building supplies.*

## **SCENE 1.6 -- Building**

### **== Song Start 1 ==**

Start the build of the hack,  
talk about how excited everyone is  
Maybe drop references to what materials are being used

### **== Song Break 1 ==**

#### **COROT**

Looks like things are going really well.

#### **PISTON**

Hey guys, sorry to be lame, but I just realized I have an essay due at midnight. I've got to go do that. I'll be back tomorrow.

#### **COROT**

Yeah, okay. See you tomorrow.

*PISTON leaves.*

### **== Song Start 2 ==**

Tess and Corot are working together. BILLY is just around.  
COROT- sorry to leave you alone, but i have to go take care of something. Oh (noticing BILLY), BILLY is still here.  
Everyone else starts to leave (slowly)  
TESS jokes to Billy that soon they will be the only ones left?  
By end of verse, TESS and BILLY are alone  
Corot is helping manage something else?  
[probably be the longest verse]  
COROT leaves to machine things?

### **== Song Break 2 ==**

#### **BILLY**

Where did everyone go? Didn't people say they'd be back?

#### **TESS**

It happens to people, they get hosed.

#### **BILLY**

But they all seemed so enthusiastic, don't they care?

**TESS**

They care. They'll be back... for deploy.

**== Song Start 3 ==**

start crushing <3 <3 <3

hint at passing of time

**== Song Break 3 ==**

*Kepler enters carrying his laptop.*

**KEPLER**

Hey Tess.

**TESS**

Oh, hey Kepler.

*He sits down on the couch and opens his laptop and glares directly at BILLY. He doesn't blink.*

**BILLY**

Uh... Tess?

**TESS**

Yeah?

**BILLY**

That's Kepler, right?

**TESS**

Yeah, why?

**BILLY**

Oh. I guess, I'm just kind of creeped out by him.

*KEPLER does an even more creepy thing, example: takes a cold burrito out of his pocket and eats it while staring at BILLY.*

Why's he staring at me? Did I do anything wrong?

**TESS**

Nah, it's just because you're a freshman. You're not a real person.

*(laughs)*

**BILLY**

Oh... I see...

*(Pausing from drilling)*

Is he here to help on the hack?

**TESS**

Probably not.

*(Tess begins to drill in a screw)*

**BILLY**

He's still staring at me. Should I be worried?

*(Tess cannot hear over the sound of her drill)*

Never mind...

**== Song Start 4 ==**

*(Kepler leaves)*

romance deepens

hint at passing of time

finish what ever they are working on

**== Song Break 4==**

1.7 -- Hunter's Warning

**TESS**

Thanks for being here so much. You've really been helpful lately.

**BILLY**

Thanks, it's a lot of fun. We should hang out more often, I mean, aside from this.

**TESS**

Yeah, that could be fun.

**BILLY**

Yeah?

*TESS laughing, gives him a smile.*

**TESS**

Hmmm...

**BILLY**

Hmmm?

**TESS**

Nothing.

**HUNTER** *(offstage)*

Cookies!

*(HUNTER enters with a tray of cookies)*

Stop crushing on each other! Hey, want some cookies? But seriously, cut that shit out and have some cookies!

*Other students run on stage. Ad libs: "Aw, yes!", "Mmmmm! Were these from scratch?", "These taste vegan. I think they're vegan. Whatever..."*

**TESS**

Hunter, we're just building the-

**HUNTER**

Listen.

*Puts down the tray of cookies.*

You're totally crushing on each other and you don't need to hide it from me. You should stop though. Seriously.

*Grabbing some cookies and handing them to TESS and BILLY*

Stop while you're ahead. Don't even think about *breaking the November Rule*.

*Upon hearing the words "November Rule" everyone except BILLY and TESS gasp and ad lib in frantic whispers: "The November Rule??", "Are the mad?", "Insanity!", "They won't possibly survive!", "Chthulhu have mercy!"*

### BILLY

The "November Rule?"

*Again, upon hearing the words "November Rule" everyone except BILLY and TESS ad lib in frantic whispers: "No... No!!!", "It can't be so!", "Not the November Rule", "I'm going to get more cookies."*

What's the -

*Pauses before continuing.*

What is... you know...

### HUNTER

You mean... the "November Rule!?"

*More frightened ad libs. Someone screams. Someone faints.*

Well, let me tell you...

==Song==

### BILLY

Oh come on, It's not like a [giant monster with fangs and wings] nightmare-horror-maw creature will come and shank you...

*Everyone stares at BILLY*

.. is it?

==SONG ENDS==

### HUNTER

So don't even fucking think about it!

*Hunter runs offstage loudly, then runs back on stage, grabs some cookies, shoves them into TESS's and BILLY's respective mouths, picks up the tray and runs offstage*

**BILLY**

*Takes a bite of the cookie.*  
That was a lot to digest...

*COROT enters carrying a notebook.*

**COROT**

Hey Tess, how's the progress? Sorry for leaving you guys. The Arduino was screwed.

**TESS**

We're nearly done with the Dragon Wing, but we need to measure the base supports for the attachment to building 10.

**COROT**

*Shuffling through his notes*  
Yes! You're totally right, let's get a few people and check it out. Call up Abri and Chrome to scout and I'll grab some others.  
*We could use a few more people to measure.*

**KEPLER**

*KEPLER enters carrying his laptop*  
Oh! And I'll asked Talia, and maybe Piston. I'll go grab some more people.  
*KEPLER sits down and opens up his laptop to look busy and do nothing.*  
*To TESS:*  
Meet me downstairs in a few minutes.  
*COROT walks off quickly. KEPLER looks after him.*

**BILLY**

**TESS**

I'm gonna grab my jacket. Billy?

**BILLY**

Yeah?

**TESS**

Nevermind.  
*Tess starts to walk offstage, then turns around and walks back on stage*  
Oh, hey, do you need a sweater or anything?

**BILLY**

Sure. I didn't bring one... I may have lied to my mom...

*TESS walks offstage.*

Hey, we're going up to the the roof of building 10, are you coming?

**KEPLER**

I wasn't invited.

**BILLY**

Do you want to come?

**KEPLER**

I wasn't invited.

**BILLY**

I'm inviting you now...

**KEPLER**

I said I wasn't invited... **He didn't invite me.**

**TESS (offstage)**

Hey!

*TESS reenters wearing a sweater and carrying another one.*

Hey, sorry I couldn't find a better sweater. Here.

*TESS hands BILLY the sweater and their hands touch. BILLY and TESS make eye contact and the sound of bat wings are heard faintly in the distance, they pause, look up in fear, and then immediately recoil and the sound stops.*

**BILLY**

*(still dazed at the thought of the Novembat coming and killing him)*

Let's go.

**TESS**

*(shakes her head to clear it a bit)*

Right. Oh, hey Kepler, see you around!

*TESS and BILLY walk downstairs, standing awkwardly far apart.*

*COROT runs on.*

**COROT**



Hey, Kepler. Is anyone still here?

**KEPLER**

They left.

**COROT**

Without me? Hey BILLY wait up!

**KEPLER**

Of course not. They would never leave you behind.

**COROT**

[You're upset about something. If you want to come -]

[What are you talking about? (pause)]

*Beat. COROT looks at KEPLER, who refuses to look up from his computer screen.*

Listen, if you want to come -

**KEPLER**

No, I get it. You don't want me around. You've already replaced me with that freshman.

**COROT**

What?? What are you talking about? You haven't been

**KEPLER**

I know you don't want me. You've already replaced me with that freshman. Just go.

**COROT**

You haven't been - You keep talking about how much work you have to do. I didn't want to distract you from -

**KEPLER**

Just go away.

Goddammit, never mind! Just go.

**COROT**

Geez! Cool off! Sort out your shit!

*COROT runs downstairs. KEPLER closes his computer, and picks up his cell phone.*

===SONG START: THE CALL IN===

**KEPLER**

I'll sort out my shit.

Thanks, asshole. I hope you have a really good time without me.

They did it again. I hate them. Fuck them. I don't need them. I hate hacking. They don't need me. They don't want me. Why would I want to go with them anyways. (I miss them. Why didn't he ask me to come?) Is he so caught up in his plans to forget about me?

I am glad those fuckers left, I don't want them here. Oh they're doing it again.

Stuck up pricks. I hope they all get caught. They deserve to get caught. I hope some fucking kid sees them on the roof and calls the CP's. I should call the CP's. Someone has to. Stupid stuck up pricks. Maybe they'll then they'll stop being so damn pompous.

Next time they try this, they'll think twice. They'll invite me next time or they won't go at all. I don't even want to go with them anymore. I'd rather just stay home in my room and get work done. I don't need hacking to feel good about myself. I'm over all that. It was like a drug that I took to give myself courage.

I hope this hack never goes up. I want to stop hacking forever. No one should ever hack! No one can have fun! They think they're so clever, but they're not.

I'll crush their fun. **Fucking undergrads.**

short

must represent Kepler as a villain

we are intentionally leaving the char development of Kepler to the 2nd act

===SONG END: THE CALL IN===

## 1.10 Distraction Tango

*BILLY and TESS are stationed on the roof, along with other FRESHMEN and UPPERCLASSMEN. ABRI and CHROME enter from offstage, on the ground level.*

**ABRI**

It wasn't even a double integral.

**CHROME**

Geez, what a drama queen.  
*(rolls eyes)*

*ABRI and CHROME exchange knowing looks, then both burst into peels of laughter. The sound of a police radio is heard from offstage. Underscore starts as ABRI and CHROME continue laughing, but their focus is now entirely on the offstage presence. ABRI gives CHROME a knowing look.*

**CHROME**

Definitely.

*CHROME flashes 7 fingers at ABRI. ABRI nods.  
CHROME and ABRI snap into their "show mode."*

**PACHINO** (Offstage)

Is that what the phone call said? It could be a hoax.

**CLAW** (Offstage)

Keep your eyes peeled, Pachino.

*OFFICERS CLAW and PACHINO enter, each carrying a radio in one hand and a doughnut in the other. ABRI and CHROME keep their eyes focused on each other.*

They could be anywhere.

**==Song Start 1==**

**ABRI**

FLUX TO MUSE, ALERT, WE HAVE SEEN SOME CP'S  
OUTSIDE OF BUILDING THREE.  
THEY'RE HEADING YOUR WAY, THERE'S NO NEED TO RUSH.  
WE WILL HOLD UP THE LAW.

**CLAW**

WAIT A MINUTE FREY, I THOUGHT I HEARD A NOISE

**FREY**

COULD BE SOME-A THEM HACKERS

**CLAW**

YEAH!

**FREY**

ONE OF THEIR DEPLOYS

**CLAW**

MAKING FOOLS OF THE FUZZ

**FREY**

THEY'LL REGRET IT BECAUSE

**BOTH**

WE WILL UPHOLD THE LAW

**CHROME**

[needs words]

LET'S GO HOLD UP THE LAW

**FRAY**

WELL, WHAT HAVE WE HERE? TWO STUDENTS, COULD BE SCOUTS

**CLAW**

WHY ARE THEY IN KILLIAN? ...THEY'RE MAKING OUT

**FREY**

YES THEY'RE MOCKING US COPS

**CLAW**

BUT WE WILL NOT STOP

**FREY**

UPHOLDING THE LAW

**==Song Break 1==**

**CLAW**

Um... Excuse me?

**ABRI**

*(Still on top of CHROME)*

What? Officers, I'm sorry, did you want something?

**CLAW**

Well, I didn't mean to intrude, but...

**CHROME**

*(Opening eyes sensually)*

You're not intruding, we were just sharing an intimate moment.

**CLAW**

*(whispered to PACHINO)*

I don't know, they just seem to be sharing an intimate -

**PACHINO**

*(whispered to CLAW)*

Don't be so dense! It's a trick! I'm telling you, *something's* going on... something very strange

**CHROME**

*(to ABRI)*

Your tongue is so soft...

**ABRI**

(Adlib response)

*ABRI continues to make out with CHROME. A loud noise is heard from above.*

**PACHINO**

You hear that?

*ABRI reacts immediately and smacks her hand against the wall in an attempt to repeat the sound.*

**CLAW**

Are you sure it's not the intimate moment that -

**PACHINO**

Don't be ridiculous! And stop calling them intimate! I'm calling for back-up!

*PACHINO takes out her radio. ABRI and CHROME instantly stop making out, and make eye contact. CHROME holds up three fingers. ABRI nods.*

**== Song Start 2==**

Could this start with PACHINO calling for backup on radio? And at the same time one of the scouts is also on comm device?

*(Another loud noise is heard from the rooftop)*

*ABRI and CHROME look at each other desperately. ABRI flashes two fingers at CHROME. CHROME flashes 1 finger at ABRI. ABRI flashes two fingers at CHROME. ABRI and CHROME continue to argue silently.*

**== Song Break ==**

*SPRINKLES enters with a radio in one hand, and a doughnut in the other. KALF follows him on, more casually, with a cigarette in one hand, and a coffee cup in the other.*

**SPRINKLES**

What the hell's the matter... Goddammit? I was in the middle drafting the plans for the blimp! You'd better have a good lead.

**PACHINO**

They're on the roof! We know it!

**KALF**

Who?

**SPRINKLES**

*(Crushing his doughnut in his fist on flourish in music)*

I know exactly who's up there... Pachino, where are they?

**PACHINO**

They're right up -

**ABRI**

*(cuts off PACHINO with inarticulate screaming that eventually forms coherent words)*

Whaaaaaaaaaaaat an exciting night! There sure are a lot of you! This is perfect, I was looking for a ride home..

**CLAW**

Oh, you should have said so earlier.

**PACHINO**

All right, fine, Claw, take her home.

**ABRI**

And I need four people to drive me.

*(pause, flourish in music)*

I have a phobia.

*(different flourish in music)*

**CHROME**

**I need a ride home too -**

*A loud noise is heard from the rooftop and all the CP's look up.*

**PACHINO**

I definitely heard something just now!

**SPRINKLES**

That's it! I'm going up there!

*CHROME flashes a 5 at ABRI and runs over to CLAW and PACHINO. ABRI rushes to a corner and whips out her comm device.*

**== Song Start 3==**

Lyrics example, "Flux to Muse, PUNT PUNT PUNT!!", etc.

*(Scouts dance with cops)*

*SPRINKLES breaks through ABRI and CHROME.*

**== Song Break 3==**

*The rest of the stage goes dark and all we see is SPRINKLES spotlighting the hackers. Hackers look fucked. Lights revert to STORY JACK setting, focusing*

*on STORY JACK, who is now at the foot of the stage.*

**STORY JACK**

Hold on, we're experiencing some minor difficulties at the moment -  
*STORY JACK strips sketch clothes and puts on a polo shirt.*

**OFFSTAGE CP**

Hey! Who's that over there?

**STORY JACK**

I have to go... oh... and if anyone happens to find you, remember you are...

**STORY JACK and OFFSTAGE VOICES**

...on your way to Baker house!

**STORY JACK**

We will be reappearing shortly to continue the story.  
*STORY JACK runs offstage. Blackout.*



## Scene 2.1 Interrogation

### STORY JACK

Sorry for our brief interruption, we'll try not to let it happen again. Now, where we left off last, the hackers had just been captured by the Campus Police. Would the hackers live to hack another day? Well, let's just say that Sergeant Sprinkles was not in the mood to share his doughnuts.

*Lights come 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. Hackers trudge into the police station, followed by SPRINKLES and PACHINO.*

People caught: Tess, Billy, Corot, Piston, Talia, a scared frosh, more, Ryan, FROSH, UPPERCLASSMEN

### START INTERROGATION

#### SPRINKLES

All right, you punks, line up against the wall. Go on! Go on! Now, I'm going to ask you some simple questions and you are going to cooperate.

Hackers! Up against the wall, single file!

#### PACHINO

*(leering at the hackers)*

Yeah! You'd better cooperate...

*(gets right in RYAN's face)*

...for your own sakes.

#### SPRINKLES

Quiet, Pachino! Go make yourself useful and get me some coffee.

#### PACHINO

Yes sir...

*(still nose to nose with RYAN)*

*to SPRINKLES:*

Fine...sir.

*to scared frosh:*

I've got my eyes on you...

*PACHINO whips away and saunters offstage, as RYAN slumps into the wall,*

*looking faint.*

### **SPRINKLES**

Now you'd better know damn well why you're here, dammit. And I don't want any guff. Now. I know why you're here, you know why you're here, and I know you know why you're here. Let's not waste anyone's time, shall we?

Verse 1: CP starts by asking Name and year, living group(?)

Clicking clock sound, drive  
Have the hackers together  
Have solo lines

song break

*(CLAW and KALF enter)*

### **CLAW**

Sorry we're so late, just finished driving that intimate couple home.

*(salutes SPRINKLES)*

Mission accomplished, sir! The intimate couple are safely back at Baker.

### **KALF**

I sure feel sorry for them, having that phobia of being in a car with fewer than four adults. It must have been terrifying to them to not have the full four-have only two off--

### **SPRINKLES**

Claw! I asked you to bring those two back here! They were clearly involved with the others!

### **KALF**

*(throws CLAW a look)*

I told you! And who has a phobia of being in a car with fewer than four adults? Yeah, geez, Claw! Why do you make such bad decisions!

### **SPRINKLES**

None of that from you, Kalf! I can smell your cigarette break from a mile away, so don't give me any bullshit about how this was all Claw's fault.

**CLAW**

But...they looked so innocent...

**KALF**

*(restraining herself)*

Sir, with all due respect, we had nothing on them, so there's no reason why we couldn't just let them go on their way.

*(looks around, smirks)*

Besides, it looks like we have our hands full as it is...

**SPRINKLES**

Dammit, that's not the point!

*(frustrated sigh)*

Nevermind.

**CLAW**

Do we have any doughnuts left?

**SPRINKLES**

Forget about the doughnuts, won't you! Kalf, you take them; Claw, you take them. Kalf, Claw, start questioning these kids!

*(PACHINO pokes her head in)*

PACHINO reenters.

**PACHINO**

*(indicating RYAN)*

Give me one of those little twirps! Dibs on that one! Sir, your coffee. Claw, there's more doughnuts in the other room.

*CLAW rushes offstage, then returns happily munching a doughnut.*

**CLAW**

Aah, now I can work.

**SPRINKLES**

Alright, alright! Claw, take Billy and Piston, Kalf take Tess and Talia that bunch, Kalf, take those. Pachino, that kid better not shit himself in my station. And you-- [we should change this line so it's more open to taking an ensemble group]

Fine, you take that one. I want this one for myself.

*(pointing at Corot)*

you're with me.

*They divide. PACHINO with Ryan (and others), CLAW with Billy, Piston and others, KALF with TESS and TALIA and others, and SPRINKLES with COROT*

### **START SONG AGAIN**

Each group is interrogated by the respective police officer, cutting between them  
song break

*(lights go out on everyone except for SPRINKLES and COROT)*

**COROT**

Almost done officer? I know you have your nightly activities to get back to as well, and I hate to have ruined your evening.

**SPRINKLES**

Almost. I just have one last question for you. And this one's off the record. What are you going to do now? What are you doing?

**COROT**

What do you mean, officer.

**SPRINKLES**

You're going nowhere in life, kid. This isn't the first time you've come in with a story like this. You graduate after this year. You don't think this will affect your future?

**COROT**

I'm afraid I still don't understand.

**SPRINKLES**

I know you're a smart kid. You know you're a smart kid. So why are you wasting everyone's time with this shit?

**COROT**

Sir, this is what's important to me. This what's important to my friends. This is important to MIT.

**SPRINKLES**

You think that, kid? Maybe it's important to you, but it's not important to everyone here.  
What makes you think this is important to your freinds? Maybe you should pay more  
attention to how your fellow students feel about all this shenaniganry.

### **COROT**

What do you mean?

Song start

chaos

COROT sings introspectively and SPRINKLES sings in about how Corot's future will  
probably suck

song is pretty intense now

others sing interrogation chorus

song end

### **SPRINKLES**

*(shouting)*

Get the hell out of here!! Goddammit!

*(blackout)*

2.2 Wank, wank, wank

*All the hackers who were not caught are waiting around the hall for their friends to return.*

**ABRI**

How long has it been?

**FARADAY**

Three hours I think?

**CHROME**

How long could it take?

*(The captured hackers return, amidst a flurry of angry muttering)*

**PISTON**

Frickin' cops! Dammit! They took forever!

**SCared FROSH RYAN**

I'm just glad they let us go home.

**BILLY** Another **FRESMEN**

Do they normally let you go?

**PISTON**

This wouldn't have happened if we hadn't been so fucking careless!

**COROT**

We weren't being careless, Piston.

**PISTON**

Shut up, Corot! We were being fucking careless! We had two scouts below and there's no fucking reason we should have needed more.

**ABRI**

Yeah, but we're pretty good scouts. Hey! We jumped through some flaming fuckin hoops for you down there - there were 2 CPs you never even saw thanks to us!

*(ABRI high fives CHROME)*

**PISTON**

Oh yeah?! Are you now? [Then why didn't you say anything?] [Then why the hell did we get caught?? You know how bad this is going to look for me?

**CHROME**

Fuckin' chill, man. We were in contact with Talia, I mean, these things happen. sometimes shit happens.

*PISTON wheels to face TALIA, ready to rant again.*

**TALIA**

Woah, mister, don't look at me. you get started on me.

**BILLY**

I think it was just a small miscommunication. We were trying really hard to be discrete but -

**PISTON**

Or maybe it was a stupid little freshman who's been distracting a certain upperclassman who should have been more fucking careful.

*(A scream is heard in the distance)*

**TESS**

Distracting? What the fuck are you talking about, Billy's put in more work than you have --

**BILLY**

*(at the same time as TESS)*

No, but I - I'm not stupid! And I'm not trying to distract her, I'm trying to put up this goddamn hack!

**PISTON**

Look, just shut up! We need to sort this out, and we're doing it now.

START SONG

People throw blame around  
Blame Abri and Chrome for being careless

Blame Talia for not being more responsive

Kepler sings to himself about how he isn't actually fulfilled how its his fault

Blame Billy for distracting Tess

Blame Tess for letting Billy distract her

Kepler another siloquy

Blame Corot for not putting more thought into the situation and being a shitty leader

Kepler sings about how he needs to say he's sorry, but doesn't say it at all.

Corot takes responsibility

SONG Break

**BILLY**

Tess, look I'm sorry if I did anything to-

**TESS**

Shut up. Go the fuck away. Piston was right. This wouldn't have happened if I hadn't been so distracted. Just go away.

**BILLY**

What?

**TESS**

You heard me frosh. leave.

(BILLY looks hurt and then leaves) turns away, shocked)

**TESS**

(Unable to look anyone in the eye)

What now?

**COROT**

I'm not sure.

SONG continue it gets all climaxy here. boom.

KEPLER sing s about how he wants to tell them he's sorry that he did it.

**KEPLER**

KEPLER enters the room with intentions to appologize

Tess, Corot, I just wanted to say that...

but his words are not appologetic) KEPLER notices BILLY is still in the room and says...)



What the hell are you looking at?

*BILLY runs out of the room. KEPLER looks after him, then turns back to TESS and COROT.*

Fuck you. I did it.

*(KEPLER walks out, collapses down completely distressed)*

What did I just do?

Song end.

**TESS**

Corot, What happened?

*TESS and COROT look at each other, completely bewildered.*

### Scene 2.3: Flashback

*KEPLER waits on the floor broken down as the lights fade. Slowly, out of the shadows, STORY JACK enters. STORY JACK is now a freshman, wearing less sketchy garb than before*

**STORY**

Are you okay?

**KEPLER**

I'm fine. Just go.

**STORY**

You were just crying. Something's obviously wrong.

**KEPLER**

How perceptive of you.

**STORY**

Look, I'm just trying to help you. Maybe you should try talking instead of bottling up your feelings.

**KEPLER**

*(miserable, defeated)*

You're probably no good at listening.

**STORY**

Fine, but I don't think anyone else will listen to you.

**KEPLER**

You're wrong.

**STORY**

Maybe the hall cat.

**KEPLER**

You just won't go away will you.

**STORY**

Look, I'm not trying to be a pain.

**KEPLER**

Well, You're doing a very good job.

*(pause. they stare each other down)*

Fine, it's hard to explain. It's a long story.

**STORY**

I love long stories.

**KEPLER**

*(gives STORY a look - "don't interrupt me again")*

You better not go blabbing to all of campus. This goes way back. Back to my freshman year. It's... I've never really talked about this with anyone before. See... back when I was a freshman, Corot and I used to hang out all the time. Corot, Tess, and I actually, but mostly Corot. We used to go out hacking nearly every night. Pass no record is a gift.

*Flashback to a dorm room, COROT and KEPLER are now sitting on a bed, drinking soda.*

*(TESS leans in the doorway)*

**TESS**

Hey! Want go hacking with me!

*COROT looks at KEPLER for approval, KEPLER doesn't disagree so COROT takes this as a yes)*

**COROT**

Sure! Let's go.

**STORY**

*(now serving as narrator once more)*

And that night they had a glorious night of hacking! They found new tombs and shafts that would have stunned the minds of any freshmen! Soon they were an unstoppable trio and were never seen apart.

*(Lights change or something to indicate quick passage of time. COROT, TESS and KEPLER are hacking in the background)*

**KEPLER**

Some day man, some day.

**COROT**

Rappel off that?

(Points at the dome)

**KEPLER**

Counter balance style, of course.

(bro-clasps hands with COROT)

**COROT**

No anchor like your friend.

**TESS**

Unless your friend is Officer Sprinkles!

*All three burst into laughter. Lights fade and refocus on KEPLER and STORY.*

**KEPLER**

~~Then one day...~~ Then that summer I got an internship in California. And when I came back -- it was like they'd forgotten about me already. They'd go off hacking together and only last minute even think to invite me -- if they remembered at all.

They already had all their own inside jokes and adventures, and they weren't going to put in the effort to include me as part of that. [ I'd go along with them and they'd spend the entire time talking about that awesome place they'd explored in June or that hack they pulled in July, turn this into a flashback] and eventually I gave up.

I'd lost my best friends, and they were being insensitive jerks anyway. So if they even remembered to invite me to come along I'd just say--

*(now the lights on KEPLER and STORY go dim and spotlight TESS and COROT after they've left the meeting room)*

**COROT**

(bitterly)

"I'm too busy". That's what Kepler would have said anyway if we asked him if he wanted to help. What an asshole! I can't believe he called the CP's on us!

**TESS**

He wasn't like that freshman year at all. You remember that time we got stuck in the

shaft in 37 and he sang the entire first act of "The Phantom of the Opera" to distract the CP's while we got out safely? [blablabla nostalgic memory -- is there some inside joke that was referenced earlier or can I make up a story?] [this should be a story about how KEPLER did something awesome to help prevent a group of hackers from getting caught by the CPs - imply that he would never turn in someone normally]

**COROT**

*(nostalgic and bitter at the same time)*

Haha, yeah, that was hilarious.

**TESS**

I wonder what happened?

**COROT**

I don't know... it was all great, and then he came back from California and suddenly he didn't want to go hacking with us anymore. He kept saying he was too hosed.

**TESS**

Yeah, he did, I guess. But I feel like there was something else, right? Because it started that way and then next thing you know he wouldn't talk to me. Would he talk to you?

**COROT**

No, not really. I guess I just sort of figured he was busy or found a new group of friends... I didn't really think too much about it. I was busy with other things, I figured he was too.

**TESS**

I can't help thinking we really missed something, Corot. It's one thing to be busy, but he must be pissed at us to be that much of an asshole.

**COROT**

God, I really don't give a shit! There's no excuse for doing what he did.

**TESS**

*(shrug)*

Yeah, I guess so...

*(shakes head)*

I know, but he's our friend and he wouldn't do something this drastic to us without a reason....

STORY

[But their friendship was not for long] [But their friendship was put into jeopardy]... Over winter break, our hacker was a bit careless and sprained his ankle broke is leg. And as all good hackers know, you must never hack if you are injured.

KEPLER

Go on without me.

STORY

he would tell his friends, seeing no reason they could not enjoy the night's festivities without him. Sometimes they would even come back to recall the adventures of the night-

TESS

It was so much fun! We found this awesome tomb! It was beautiful, it was filled with this green light and -

(spoken under STORY)

at first we thought it was a machine room, but then we found out someone had set up a lava lamp in there! Someone had been there before! It was kind of eerie, but nice. There wasn't a name on the wall that we could see, so we named it -

STORY

and our injured hacker liked hear the tales of his friends explorations. It made him feel like he was part of the adventure. But as his friends became more busy, they stopped by less often.

KEPLER

How's it going? I haven't seen you in a while.

TESS

Not bad. Busy with my problem sets and stuff.

(pause)

KEPLER

Found any cool shafts?

TESS

Oh, yeah! Corot and I found one Tuesday. Oh, and last Thursday-

KEPLER

Busy with tooling, I see. I get it.

TESS

We weren't really out that long. It was sort of spur of the moment.

STORY

Soon he began to feel as if he was just not wanted.

KEPLER

You're ignoring me! I know you don't want to hang out with me any more! hate me.

STORY

he yelled.

COROT

Dude, chill. Your leg's still healing.

KEPLER

That's just an excuse!

COROT

If you want, we could just wait until your leg to heal.

KEPLER

Look, just go away, okay! I don't want to talk about tihs.

COROT

You're overreacting.

KEPLER leaves

STORY

And so they continued on without the injured hacker. They continued hacking and found new tombs and shafts that would have stunned the minds of any freshmen, but things weren't quite the same.

(fading back into reality)

*Lights fade on TESS and COROT as they come back up on KEPLER and STORY.*

**KEPLER**

But that's their story, not mine. Anyway, 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. You'll probably never understand.

**STORY**

Wow, I never would have guessed that --

**KEPLER**

Look, just don't tell anyone, okay? Or, if you do, no names attached.

**STORY**

I promise.

*(STORY starts to leave)*

Hey, did that help at all?

*Beat. Then KEPLER gives STORY a tiny, rare smile.*

**KEPLER**

Maybe. I have to go to lab.

*KEPLER grabs his things and exits. STORY looks after him.  
Blackout.*

OR, combine with the old idea:

**[STORY]**

Hey, what's up with you?

**AD**

Nothing.

**STORY**

Apparently a pretty upsetting nothing. You want to talk about it?



AD

*(sighs and runs hand through hair like he's thinking about whether it's worth talking about it)*

STORY

*(as a narrator, to audience; spotlight on Story, AD freezes)* [may want to change some of the phrasing here since his narrator character is a STORY JACK and wouldn't put him/herself into the story (right?)] [Also, kind of want to switch STORY and AD for narrating the first half (have AD start out and STORY take over) ] [Yeah, that's what I thought we'd planned originally, but then it said otherwise on the wiki so I thought we'd changed it...]

Unsurprisingly, he was reluctant to talk at first, but then it just sort of burst out. He told me about his freshman year, how he used to be friends with UP and LEAD. They all lived together, tooled together, and of course, went hacking together. The summer after freshman year, AD went off to California for an internship, and UP and LEAD stayed around for the summer, hacking and bonding. So when AD had come back in the fall --

*(light returns to normal, shows AD and Story talking as they had been before)*

AD

-- it was like they'd forgotten about me already. They'd go off hacking together and only last minute even think to invite me -- if they even remembered. They already had all their own inside jokes and adventures, and they weren't going to put out the effort to include me as part of that. I'd go along with them and they'd spend the entire time talking about that awesome place they'd explored in June or that hack they pulled in July, and eventually I gave up. I'd lost my best friends, and they were being insensitive jerks anyway. So if they even remembered to invite me to come along I'd just say--

*(now the lights on AD and Story go dim and spotlight UP and LEAD after they've left the meeting room)*

LEAD

*(bitterly)*

"I'm too busy". That's what AD would have said anyway if we asked him if he wanted to help. What an asshole! I can't believe he called the CP's on us!

UP

He wasn't like that freshman year at all. You remember that time we [blablabla nostalgic memory -- is there some inside joke that was referenced earlier or can I make

up a story?]

LEAD

Haha, yeah, that was hilarious.

UP

He used to be so funny. I wonder what happened?

LEAD

I don't know... it was all great, and then he came back from California and suddenly he didn't want to go hacking with us anymore. He kept saying he was too hosed to.

UP

Yeah, he did, I guess. But I feel like there was something else, right? Because it started that way and then next thing you know he wouldn't talk to me. Would he talk to you?

LEAD

No, not really. I guess I just sort of figured he was busy or found a new group of friends... I didn't really think too much about it. I was busy with other things, I figured he was too.

UP

I can't help thinking we really missed something, LEAD. It's one thing to be busy, but he must be pissed at us at be that much of an asshole.

LEAD

You know, I think I really don't give a shit. There's no excuse for doing what he did.

UP

(shrug)

Yeah, I guess so...

[not sure how we want to end this scene... should it go back to STORY or just end here?]

I

## 2.4: There's More To Life Than Tooling

*Lights come up on a deserted section of hall. Billy is sitting at a desk tooling and looking sad and making frustrated noises at his pset. AESOP enters, talking to CHROME. AESOP and CHROME laugh.*

### CHROME

Oh man, as great as it is to catch up with you, I need go tool. I have a 6.006 pset to finish. That class is a bitch. Anyway, It's been really good to see you again.

*(Hugs AESOP)*

Do you know when you will be in the area again?

### AESOP

No, but hopefully it will be I'll be back before this year's freshmen graduate. Speaking of freshmen, who is the guy tooling in the corner?

### CHROME

His name is Oh...that's Billy. He doesn't live here. He just showed up when the hack started. He's been hanging around [with Tess, helping with the build]. helping with the hack.

### AESOP

He doesn't look happy enough looks pretty bummed out for a freshmen on pass no record.

### CHROME

Yeah, I think the hack has gotten the best of him.

### AESOP

Politics? Angst?

### CHROME

I didn't stay to hear the end of the wanking... All I know is that it got pretty bad. Clearly if the excited freshmen isn't excited anymore, it must have gotten pretty bad.

### AESOP

I understand.

*(pause, hand shake)*

Good luck with everything.

*(CHROME exits)*

**BILLY**

(frustrated) Arrgh, dammit! I'll never get this. Never, never!

(frustrated, slams his textbook shut)

Dammit!

*Aesop turns to face Billy but doesn't get closer. Billy crumples up the piece of paper and throws it off stage, looks back at his pset frustrated, puts his head on the desk.*

**AESOP**

What are you tooling on?

**BILLY**

(Still with head on desk)

Fuck 8.012... Why do you think it's any of your business?

**AESOP**

What's your name?

**BILLY**

Billy. now Leave me alone.

**AESOP**

(walks over to BILLY)

Hey Billy. My name is I'm Aesop.

**BILLY**

(head snaps up, looks incredulously at AESOP)

Wait are you, Aesop? Aesop, the fabled? Aesop, the hardk0re?!

**AESOP**

(Pauses and smiles at BILLY)

Want to take a break? You're obviously not getting anywhere. Seems like you're not getting anywhere right now. Let's go wandering.

*BILLY shakes his head "yes" and silently gets up, following AESOP. Start underscore.*

*AESOP walks in a convoluted path as the desk and chair are removed and the entrance to the hacking location appears.*

*We need to decide what the entrance is. Does it just look like a wall?*

**BILLY**

I have no idea where we are going.

**AESOP**

That's okay, want to take a guess?

**BILLY**

Is it somewhere hark0re?

**AESOP**

It's somewhere special.

*(They get to location)*

Here we are.

**BILLY**

Hmm, it looks like a wall.

*(Knocks on the wall)*

Sounds hollow... a tomb! Are we going in?

**AESOP**

I would like to.

**BILLY**

How are we getting in?

**AESOP**

What do you see?

**BILLY**

I see a [adlib things around the set].

I mean I guess I could climb [that dexion there, or if I got xxxx special tool]

But I'm still not sure I could open the door.

**AESOP**

When you looked around, you missed something which could be helpful. *(AESOP points to himself)*

[work out something where they need 2 people to get into the space]

*(Set changes and BILLY and AESOP are now standing inside a dark tomb. Sign-ins are on the wall. BILLY and AESOP are wearing head lamps. A note to the actors: make sure your headlamp is pointing down towards your face as to not blind other actors and audience members)*

**BILLY**

*BILLY notices sign-ins*

Woah cool, sign-ins!

**AESOP**

*Joining BILLY in looking at the sign-ins*

Yeah, I won't forget when Sophocles and Aristotle and I found this tomb. [lengthen story about how they got in here] Looks like no one has been here in a while...

**BILLY**

Wow, I didn't think we would be able to get in here. I wish life was this easy.

**AESOP**

Who says life isn't this easy? Getting in here seemed hard at first, but once you figured out the trick, it was simple. And who says pulling hacks can't be as easy?

**BILLY**

Maybe if you are Aesop, the fabled, life is easy. But my life isn't. I thought things were going well, but now I just don't know.

I had a dream to be one of the most hardk0re people to ever come to MIT. I want to explore and find all the best spaces. I wanted to build the most epic hacks. that have ever come to Cambridge. But I can't figure out what's wrong, it's just not satisfying.

I don't know why I'm here any more. I don't know why I'm at MIT. Maybe I should just go back to my room and tool.

You know, I had a dream to be one of the most hardk0re people to ever come to MIT, but I can't figure out what's wrong. I want to go exploring and find awesome spaces inside buildings. I like building things that seem to magically appear on roof tops. I like hacking. But at the same time, I can't figure out I don't know why I'm here any more or why any of this matters. Maybe I should just stick to tooling.

## SONG START 1

### AESOP

There is more to MIT than earning your degree  
You could hide away all day with Diff EQ.  
But you'll find that in the end, that working with a friend  
Is a recipe for loving what you do.

There is more to 8.01 than getting psets done.  
Studying alone you'll find it's rough.  
But in a group you'll find, that with your minds combined.  
The hardest problem never seems that tough.

There's more to life than Tooling don't you know.

## SONG BREAK 1

### BILLY

More to life than tooling? I'm sorry, but I think you're talking to the wrong person. I already know that. I mean, I'm not a big tool or anything and I normally work with other people. I know you probably got a weird first impression of me, but I'm not like that.

Okay, I didn't actually mean that I was going to stick to tooling. I

### AESOP

I don't think you're listening. Keep listening. It's not just about tooling. keep listening.

## SONG START 2

There is more to college years than building your careers  
There are clubs for everything you could desire  
Spelunk with caving groups, or join an improv troupe  
Build robots, fence, or join the concert choir.

There is more to taking breaks than baking lots of cakes  
It might be tasty if you ate it all.  
But if you're in distress, it'll help you decompress

If you share it 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.

BILLY

I know, there's more to life than punting and tooling, there's also hacking.

AESOP

Your still stuck on hacking?

BILLY

How can I not be? I get it, but just it still isn't the most special I just don't understand.

AESOP

There is more to pulling hacks, than you hear from the jacks.

A hack is up for just a fleeting span

There is no real meaning spending hours on machining

If you're team's no closer than it first began

While the crowds may gape in wonder,

There are stories they'll never know.

'Cuz the real magic happens elsewhere

With the faces behind the show.

BILLY

I figured out what you are saying! The most important part of MIT is that we are sharing experiences with the people here. We put ourselves through so many trials and tribulations, psets, projects, and events, and the result you may ask? The result is not just an "A" or a hack on the dome, what we really get is a deeper connection to the people we worked with. Hacking, punting, and tooling in the end bring us closer to each other.

BILLY

You're right! The most important part of hacking is not that we are doing something epic, it's that we are doing something epic together.

Fuck, it's not about being hardk0re. It's not about the hack



BILLY and AESOP

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 passage in the story of our lives.

There's more to life than Hacking, and there's more to life than Punting, and there's  
more to life than  
Tooling don't you know.

AESOP and BILLY

In our time here at this school, we'll hack and punt and tool.  
We will spend our time in lots of crazy ways.  
And when we're looking back, we won't feel that we lack.  
'Cuz we've got great memories from those golden days.

There's more to life than Hacking, and there's more to life than Punting, and there's  
more to life than  
Tooling don't you know.

**AESOP**

*(smiling)*

I'm touched. Come on, let's get out of this tomb. It's sentimental, but it's also very  
dusty.

**BILLY**

More to life than tooling? I'm sorry, but I think you're talking to the wrong person. I  
already know that. I mean, I'm not a big tool or anything and I normally work with other  
people. I know you probably got a weird first impression of me, but I'm not like that.

**AESOP**

I don't think you're listening. Keep listening. It's not just about tooling. keep listening.

**BILLY**

I'm starting to think you're not talking about tooling at all, actually. [Does this make him

sound to dumb? no]

**AESOP**

*(smiling)*

I think you might be on to something.

**BILLY**

It makes so much sense now! Thank you so much! This means a lot to me.

**AESOP**

Hey, don't even worry about it.

**BILLY**

No, please. It means so much. I hate when people say not to worry about it. I really want you to understand how appreciative I am.

**AESOP**

*(smiling)*

I'm touched. Come on, let's get out of this tomb. It's sentimental, but it's also very dusty.

*(BILLY and AESOP get out of the tomb)*

**BILLY**

I don't even know how to thank you really... sorry I can't do anything for you. [He's thanking him too much...]

**AESOP**

What you do for yourself is good enough for me. And if I recall, somebody has a certain hack to finish.

**BILLY**

You're right! Thank you again!

*(BILLY starts to run offstage, then stops.)*

Hey, I hope you come back sometime soon. That was a lot of fun, we should do it again some time.

**AESOP**

Sure, and hey, don't drink too much jolt, kid. It's not as good for you as you think.

(Billy runs off stage)

[this is where I'd see Billy rallying freshmen, so long as there was still an underscore in the previous scene]

## **SCENE 2.45 -- Platonic Friends Again**

**BILLY**

Hey Tess.

**TESS**

Hey Billy.

**BILLY**

*(spoken during TESS's line next line, shouting the words frantically)*

I'm sorry that I got so depressed and left! I shouldn't have been so touchy! These things happen and I'm not really that sad anymore! Don't feel bad, it's okay!

**TESS**

*(spoken during BILLY's previous line, shouting the words frantically)*

I didn't mean to be so rude to you! I thought about it for a really long time and now I just feel really bad! These things shouldn't happen and it's no excuse!

**BILLY**

It's okay. I'm... I'm fine now.

**TESS**

I guess I just got caught up in everything like everyone else. I didn't mean what I said.

**BILLY**

I know.

**TESS**

But really. It hurts me because ... of the way I feel about you.

**SONG START**

Tess and Billy sing about how much they love each other, each line ending in what would be admissions of love, but each time, before they complete the loving words, the sounds of bat wings are heard above and they turn the words into something like "I want to be your platonic friend" or "It's good to be just friends."

Ex: "When I look into your eyes, I see someone I could never forget... someone I just long to - " (bat wings) " - stand very far away from while talking about sports and the weather."

**SONG END**

*Hunter runs on stage*

**HUNTER**

I hope you stupid fuckers aren't making out! The deploy's about to start!

**TESS**

Come on! Let's go!

*They exit.*

## SCENE 2.5 -- Chatter

COROT

Everyone who's using a comm device for the deploy, please check to make sure it's working.

SONG STARTS 1

Everyone calls comm device check. Example,

COROT

"This is char, check."

Another Person

"Gochya, This is Build, check?"

SONG BREAK 1

SONG START 2

SONG BREAK 2

SONG ENDS

## SCENE 2.7 -- Hackers on the Roof

*The hackers are now on the roof. Ropes and webbing are strewn across the roof, ready to secure something large. Everyone is working feverishly to unload supplies and set up the hack. Suddenly, KEPLER bursts onto the roof.*

**KEPLER**

Corot! Corot! Guys! Get off the roof! CP's! They're coming!

**COROT**

Kepler?

**KEPLER**

Faraday fell asleep, the CP's walked right by him. They know you're on the roof, and they're just waiting for you to put up the hack.

**PISTON**

What the fuck are you doing here?

**TALIA**

Kepler, how can we trust you? You called us in.

**KEPLER**

I don't have any good reason... You won't believe anything I say anyway. Just Get off the roof.

**ABRI**

Sounds like he's telling the truth.

**PISTON**

Yeah, sure. Don't lie to us. We're putting up this hack, so don't try to stop us again.

**KEPLER**

Listen, they're coming for you. You should get off the roof.

**ANNA**

It's probably a trick. He's just trying to get us caught.

**KEPLER**

Get down. I don't have time to explain myself.

**TALIA**

That sounds so pathetic.

**KEPLER**

Fuck. Get down.

**PISTON**

Look, just go away.

**KEPLER**

Please, Corot.

*(Quietly to Corot)*

Listen, I know you must think I'm an asshole, but I'm up here because I want to help you. You have to believe me.... please.

*Beat.*

**COROT**

Okay, everyone head down. Leave the hack. Kepler, help me get the ropes and webbing. Every one else get off the roof.

**PISTON**

You don't seriously trust him. You can't-

**COROT**

Go down!

*Everyone heads down except for KEPLER and COROT, who begin collecting webbing.*

**COROT**

Make sure you pack everything you can.

*(Pointing at something)*

Grab that too. Thanks for coming up here by the way.

*Beat.*

**KEPLER**

I'm sorry about calling you guys in. Hey, Corot...you know that phone call I made to the



police - about last time... the call in to the CPs ...

**COROT**

[That was really stupid.] [I don't get why you did it.][*COROT says nothing*]

**KEPLER**

I know.

It was stupid, that's all I wanted to say.

I said I was sorry.

[I just wanted to say that that was stupid. And I'm sorry.]

**COROT**

Thanks for coming up here.

**KEPLER**

I was really stupid.

Also, I... never mind.

**COROT**

What. Come on, you want to say something.

**KEPLER**

No I don't. Forget it.

I don't want to talk about it.

**COROT**

Come on, I deserve to know. I'm still not sure if I should trust you. But here you are, standing in front of me. You came up here.

I just stopped a hack for you.

**KEPLER**

I just... It's because... It's because you... Nevermind, You're going to tell me it's stupid.

**COROT**

Come on, no. I won't. Please, I won't. Just say it.

**KEPLER**

Can you see that

Sorry...this is really hard for me to say... It's because you didn't invite me.

**COROT**

*(in disbelief)*

That's so stupid.

**KEPLER**

I don't think you understand. I mean, it's because you never invite me, and that night, it really got to me. Corot, it wasn't just last night. It was every night.

Ever since summer after freshman year, I've been excluded.

After that summer, things weren't the same, and I haven't felt welcome.

**COROT**

What do you mean?

**KEPLER**

You and Tess were my best friends. I miss you guys. I miss spending time with you.

we were an unstoppable trio and then...- I've been missing you for a year.

**COROT**

But...we tried! We invited you to things--

I feel like shit. I hadn't even thought about that...I had no idea...

I thought we were still friends, just a bit more hosed.

**KEPLER**

Let me finish. You'd invite me, but half the conversation was about things that happened while I was gone. And it got harder to sit there while you two laughed at inside jokes for three hours. And now...it really gets to me to see a frosh taking my place! I think what I was trying to say is...

**COROT**

I feel like shit. I hadn't even thought about that... I had no idea.

**KEPLER**

It really got to me to see a freshman taking my place.

**COROT**

Billy?

**KEPLER**

Whatever his name is.

*(gets more worked up, starts to shout)*

It just really hurt. I've never been good with feelings, okay?

*Beat.*

**COROT**

Ha! Yeah...

Kepler, look... I'm sorry.

I'm not trying to beat you up about this.

**KEPLER**

Oh really.

**COROT**

Yeah.

I can be stupid sometimes too.

I had no idea all you wanted was to be invited.

I just assumed you'd moved on.

**KEPLER**

No, you're right. Hmm... I guess we're both being stupid.

*(pause)*

**COROT**

Let's do it.

**KEPLER**

Do what?

**COROT**

*(snapping into showman mode)*

The counterbalance.

**KEPLER**

Huh?

**COROT**

Remember?

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

KEPLER

*(remembering)*

"There's no anchor like your friend"

COROT

Unless your freind is Officier Sprinkles

KEPLER

Speaking of Sprinkles, let's get rig this shit before he gets up here...

*(they start preparing for the rappel)*

man, this is crazy.

COROT

There's crazier shit we could do.

*(They start to rig.)*

I've always wanted to. It will be just like we planned.

COROT

Sorry, I missed the first part.

KEPLER

Counterbalance rappel.

*(pointing to the dome below)*

Off this?

COROT

You're crazy.

KEPLER

Yeah.

COROT

You're serious.

KEPLER

*(sarcastically)*

No, I'm insisting for no reason.

COROT

You are.

KEPLER

You want to?

COROT

It's crazy. Didn't you say the CPs are coming?

KEPLER

So you will.

COROT

Sure.

KEPLER

This is stupid.

COROT

*(grinning)*

Good thing we're both stupid.

*Beat while KEPLER looks at COROT as if he's crazy, then KEPLER returns COROT's grin.*

KEPLER / COROT

stupid, stupid, stupid.

ad lib saying "stupid" to each other, playing with the other.

KEPLER

You ready?

COROT

Yippie-kie-yay, motherfucker!

KEPLER

I'll take that as a yes

SONG START

COROT and KEPLER sing to each other while on rappel about how they forgive each other for the things they've done. The song's not angry and sad, but spirited, as if they

are flying (since they are)

SONG END

*CP's burst onto the roof door just as the rope slips out of sight.*

**CLAW**

All right! Come out!

**PACHINO**

We know you're hiding. You can't hide for long.

**CLAW**

Come on...

*(searches the roof top, but finds no one)*

[We need to add more dialog where the power chord gets cut and they remove the hack]

**PACHINO**

They're gone...

**SPRINKLES**

No. NOOOO! Those hackers! Once again, they have slipped through my fingers.

*(raising a fist to the sky)*

But one day... one day, they shall be mine!!

**KALF**

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

*CLAW, and PACHINO start to head inside. SPRINKLES remains paralyzed and is now whimpering like a puppy.*

Come on.

*KALF hoists SPRINKLES up to his feet and walks him inside.*

**CLAW**

Is Dunkin' still open?

SONG start

KALF sings a verse about how the hackers got away, but they're not real criminals  
(reprise of let's get those fuckers)

SONG end

*Lights fade down on the CP's.*

## SCENE 2.8 -- Punchline

*The hum of a machine room once again fills the stage stage. Lights fade up to reveal STORY JACK, again, wearing sketchy clothing.*

### STORY JACK

... and although a hack did not shine brightly on the dome, there was a different kind of magic in the air, magic that can only be created by the rekindling of an old friendship, for, you see, hackers are more than just clever pranksters, we have hearts, just like anyone.

### SONG STARTS

words reiterating STORY JACK's moral

for some reason the song "that's your funeral" from oliver is in my head when I think of Punchline

### SONG ENDS

Thank you!

### HUNTER (*Offstage*)

Hey Jack, I think it's time to move on.

### STORY JACK

All right everyone, let's continue along now. We have much more to see, the night is still young!

*Lights fade down on STORY JACK.*



## SCENE 2.9 -- Epilogue

*As the lights fade out on STORY JACK, the dome is illuminated, as if by moonlight. BILLY and TESS appear from behind the dome.*

**BILLY**

Do you think anyone's down there?

**TESS**

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

**BILLY**

I can't see it anywhere. Maybe it blew away in the wind.

**TESS**

Or maybe the CP's took it. They were up here last night, you know, after Kepler told us to come down. He was telling the truth.

**BILLY**

Hey Tess?

**TESS**

Yeah Billy?

**BILLY**

I just realized what today is.

**TESS**

What day is it.

**BILLY**

It's past midnight.

**TESS**

Does this mean...

**BILLY**

I don't know.

*BILLY hesitantly reaches out his hand to grab TESS's and looks around, listening*

*for bat wings.*

**TESS**

We're free! It's November! Oh Billy!

*They make out, hardk0re*

**BILLY**

Tess... I ...

*They kiss again, hardk0re*

**TESS**

What is it?

**BILLY**

I ...

**TESS**

Yes?

**BILLY**

I have an idea for a hack!