

breed = song notes

Hack, Punt, Tool

SCENE 1.0 -- Welcome to MIT

overture

SCENE 1.1 -- Tomb of the Unknown Tool

The stage is dark. A 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 and mediocrity is hard to achieve. Here we tool, we punt, and we hack.

HUNTER *(offstage)*

Hey Jack, what do those words mean?

STORY JACK

Good question! "Tooling" is a word we use here at MIT to refer to studying or doing work. "Punting" is the act of putting off tooling. The word "hack" has two common meanings. "Hacking" is the exploration of 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)

Behind me, you'll notice some writing on the wall. This -

Music flourishes.

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

START HACKING ETHICS

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,
OR CLIMB A SHAFT,
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.
END HACKING ETHICS

ALL hackers except STORY JACK fade into the darkness and exit.

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 wonderful Institution. His mind was ready to be filled with knowledge, as many froshlings' minds are.

Lights fade down on STORY JACK.

BILLY

To offstage parents:
Bye mom! Bye dad!

MOM *(offstage)*

Do you have your sweater?

BILLY

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

STATA enters, carrying a textbook, reading without looking up. STATA bumps into BILLY.

STATA

Oh! Sorry. Oh, hello, you must be my suite-mate.

BILLY

My name's Billy!

STATA

Billy? Hi.

Billy extends his hand for a handshake. STATA turns the page without looking up. Billy shrugs off the rejection, humming the theme of "Hardk0re."

BILLY

You're studying already?

STATA

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

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'M NOT 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 THE FINDER GETS ETERNAL GLORY  
 BY NAMING IT, HE'S PLANTING HIS FLAG!

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

**STATA**

No, Covalent, not charged at all. I can't focus when you-

**BILLY**

I just get this incredible feeling! I need to tell you! I need to tell everyone!

**STATA**

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

**BILLY**

I am!!

*STATA rolls eyes and exits as BILLY sings.*

WE IDOLIZE THE ARTIST,  
 EMBRACE THE AVANT GARDE.  
 WE ALL STRIVE TO BE NOTICED  
 AND HELD IN HIGH REGARD.  
 I WANT TO FLEX MY CREATIVITY,

SHOW THE WORLD I'M SOMETHING MORE.  
 PUSH OUT AGAINST EVERY BOUNDARY,  
 I JUST WANT TO BE HARDK0RE!  
 PLEASE GOD LET ME BE HARDK0RE!

*RYAN, ANNA and other wee little FRESHMEN enter. The FRESHMEN buzz about excitedly. Many of them are carrying backpacks and/or pamphlets as if they have just come from lots of freshman-y activities.*

**ANNA**

And did you hear about the time there was a firetruck on the dome?!

**RYAN**

Or when it looked like a giant pumpkin?!

WHEN THE HACKERS TOOK THE CALTECH CANNON  
 AND TOWED IT BACK TO MIT

**ANNA**

OR THE HARVARD / YALE BALLOON INFLATED  
 IT SHOWED THEIR INGENUITY

**BILLY**

I can't wait to come up with an awesome hack of my own!

**ANNA**

I can't wait to figure out how to get on the dome! How do they do it?

*Laughing, excited by each other's excitement, the freshmen dance around.*

**RYAN**

They must be ninjas!

**BILLY and OTHERS**

THEY FLY FROM ROOFTOP TO ROOFTOP  
 AT NEAR THE SPEED OF LIGHT.  
 NO LOCK CAN BAR THEIR PASSAGE,  
 THEY CAN LEAP FROM ANY HEIGHT.  
 I WANT TO JOIN THEM, LEARN THEIR EVERY TRICK

I KNOW SOMEDAY I WILL SOAR.  
 I GUARANTEE, IT'S A CERTAINTY  
 I'M GONNA BE HARDK0RE  
 I SWEAR I WILL BE HARDK0RE!

*All FRESHMEN leave except for BILLY.*

**BILLY**

THERE'S NOTHING MORE THAN BEING HARDK0RE  
 ALL I WANT TO BE IS HARDK0RE

*TESS and COROT enter, talking. TESS and COROT look otherworldly compared to the freshmen who just left, from their torn practical clothes to their dyed hair. It is clear that they are upperclassmen. BILLY sees them and listens from a distance.*

**TESS**

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

**COROT**

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

**TESS**

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. 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, checks to make sure no one's looking, then drops to a whisper)*  
 a hack?

*COROT and TESS turn to face BILLY, 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'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. He is now in "performance mode."*

**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**

*Whispered to BILLY:*  
A Ford Model T...

**BILLY**

*To COROT:*  
A Ford Model T!

**COROT**

And where was it?

**BILLY**

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

**TESS**

*Whispered 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... a hacker?

**COROT**

*(most grandly of all!)*

Yes, to be a hacker!!

**HARDK0RE REP START**

**BILLY** convinces **COROT** and **TESS** that he will be reliable to the tune of I want to be Hardk0re.

**HARDK0RE REP BREAK**

**TESS**

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

**COROT**

*(dropping out of "performance mode")*

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**

Don't be early!

*TESS and COROT exit.*

**BILLY**

My first hack... yes! I'm in!

HARDK0RE REP START 2

I'M GONNA BE HARDK0RE!

I'M REALLY GONNA BE HARDK0RE!

I'M GONNA BE HARDK0RE!!

END HARDK0RE REP

*Blackout.*

## SCENE 1.2 -- Police Station

*Lights fade up on STORY JACK.*

### STORY JACK

And so our little freshmen joined his first hack, and merrily returned to his dorm, his head filled with images of UFO's, upside down lounges, modified inscriptions, and dreams of being the most hardk0re hacker of all time! Meanwhile, there was another group of people on campus. But they didn't wear cargo pants or have multicolored hair. They wore all 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 FREY PACHINO types furiously at her desk. OFFICER BERRY CLAW, an older CP, sits at another desk, reading a copy of The Tech. 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 doughnut box.*

### CLAW

Hmm... We're out again...

*(peers over his shoulder at PACHINO)*

Hey, Officer Pachino, we're out of doughnuts.

### PACHINO

*(doesn't look up from her typing)*

Well don't expect me to do anything about it, Claw. I have to type up this stupid incident report because of those rascals last night! If you had taken better notes, maybe I -

### CLAW

I'm sorry, Officer Pachino... I didn't think they were doing much harm.

### PACHINO

There were five kids! They had backpacks! Of course they were up to no good!

### CLAW

All I'm saying is you're making a lot of work for yourself... You could be getting more doughnuts.

*OFFICER DEEDEE KALF enters and throws a cigarette butt into the trash.*

**PACHINO**

Oh get your own doughnuts, Claw!  
(grumbling to herself)  
Well, at least there wasn't a hack.

*PACHINO looks up to smirk at CLAW, then primly returns to typing.*

**KALF**

Are you sure?

**PACHINO**

None of your sass, DeeDee.

**KALF**

Don't take my word for it, but Killian sure looks interesting this morning...

**PACHINO**

What?

*PACHINO scrambles over to CLAW and snatches the Tech from his hand.*

**CLAW**

Hey! I was reading that!

*PACHINO furiously skims the paper, flipping until she sees a photo of a hacked Killian court. Note: the hack will probably never be seen by the audience.*

*PACHINO let's out an angry squeal and throws the paper back at CLAW. CLAW looks at the page that infuriated PACHINO.*

**CLAW**

Huh... I don't remember that being there...

**KALF**

That's 'cause it wasn't.

**CLAW**

But who could have done that?

**SPRINKLES**

*(still facing upstage)*

Those goddamn hackers...

*(swivels around to face forward)*

That's who!

**PACHINO**

Claw, I *told* you they were up to no good!

**SPRINKLES**

Shut up, Pachino. Yes... they were up to no good, but 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!

**~~~~~ 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.

**OTHERS**

PATROLS?

**SPRINKLES**

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.

**OTHERS**

TRAPS?

**CLAW**

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.

**OTHERS**

DRONES?

**KALF**

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 SPRINKLES 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!

**OTHERS**

BLIMPS?

**PACHINO**

YES, BLIMPS!

**OTHERS**

Wait, blimps??

**PACHINO**

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 1.3 -- Planning Meeting**

*Lights fade up on STORY JACK.*

**STORY JACK**

And even as the cops merrily plotted and schemed, so too did the hackers; for what is a hack without a little scheming?

*The lights, fade down on STORY JACK and come up on a lounge space. TESS, and some of the FRESHMEN and UPPERCLASSMEN are already present at the meeting. BILLY enters, looks around, and waves to TESS.*

**BILLY**

Hey! Tess, right? Remember me? I'm here for the hack meeting!

**HUNTER**

Who's this?

**BILLY**

Hi, my name's Billy!

*(extends a hand to HUNTER who stares at him intensely, as if he is a ghost)*

**TESS**

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.

**HUNTER**

You're froshy as hell!

**BILLY**

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

**COROT**

*To TESS:*

I just printed the plans Athena took forever. Looks like we've got enough people here to start?

### TESS

Fire away, captain.

### 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. The plan is rather involved, but I've outlined a rough timeline, and we should have no trouble getting this thing up a bit before Halloween.

*Excited chatter buzzes through the room. COROT snaps into "performance mode."*

Our target:

*COROT unfurls the map and pins it to the wall. 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!

### COROT

What makes them work is that we think before we act. And when we act, we act deliberately! Every movement, perfectly practiced. 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. He 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.*

#### **PISTON**

*(pointing to the blueprints in his hand)*

Uhh...This looks impossible. Are you sure we can pull this off?

#### **CHROME**

*(looking over PISTON's shoulder)*

Aesop made something like that once, so it must doable.

#### **ABRI**

*(sarcastically)*

That's reassuring. He's called Aesop the fabled for a reason.

#### **BILLY**

*To Tess:*

Who's Aesop?

#### **TESS**

An amazing hacker. Cruft and a bit of a legend.

#### **COROT**

Whatever. It may take some macgyvering, but we'll be able to do it. Okay, Tess says she can head making the Dragon Wing -

*TESS waves.*

- and Faraday is on programming the Arduino.

*FARAYDAY waves.*

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

*Everyone stares at COROT.*

- don't worry, we're changing the name. It would be nice if the person in charge has rope experience.

*ABRI and CHROME raise their hands.*

And bondage doesn't count.

*ABRI and CHROME lower their hands.*

**TALIA**

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

**COROT**

Cool. I trust him, he's a sketchy fuck. I'll put you down, Talia.

**FARADAY**

Could I have a soldering bitch? Wanna learn how to solder, frosh? Please, I'm too busy for this crap...

**RYAN**

I'll do it!

**FARADAY**

Thank Cthulhu\*...

*\*pronounced "kuh-THOO-loo"*

**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**

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

*The crowd audibly disapproves of ANNA's question. Responses are spoken in rapid succession, almost cutting each other off amidst the noise.*

**TESS**

Psets or not, I'll be here.

**PISTON**

Don't be a tool.

**TALIA**

Come on, Pass no record!

**CHROME**

The most important equation you learn freshmen year...

**ABRI and CHROME**

$A = B = C = P$

*KEPLER enters carrying his laptop.*

**COROT**

Cool. How many people could make a build session tomorrow night?

*TESS and BILLY and the rest of the FRESHMEN raise their hands immediately. 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. Side conversations ensue as people exit.*

**CHROME**

*To ABRI:*

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.

**PISTON**

*to TALIA:*

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

**TALIA**

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

*TALIA playfully grabs Anna who is near by and rubs her head roughly. ANNA resists.*

**RYAN**

*To FARADAY:*

So what exactly do you need me to do?

**FARADAY**

Your hands are gonna get burnt as fuck.

**RYAN**

While soldering?

**FARADAY**

Yes, while "soldering."

*Everyone has exited except for BILLY, TESS, and KEPLER.*

**TESS**

So, Billy, what did you think of your first hack meeting?

**BILLY**

It was really cool! So epic!

**HUNTER** *(offstage)*

Froooooosssssshhhhhhhhyyyy!!!

**TESS**

*(laughing gently)*

See you tomorrow.

*TESS exits.*

**BILLY**

All right!

*BILLY looks at his packet of plans confusedly. He looks up and 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.

*Underscore begins as the scene transforms into the beginning of the build.  
People enter, carrying on building supplies.*

## SCENE 1.4 -- Building

### BUILDING ROMANCE START

The hackers start the build and sing about how excited everyone is and how well everything is going.

### BUILDING ROMANCE BREAK 1

#### COROT

Looks like things are going really well.

#### FARADAY

Corot, I need to go. I have an essay due at midnight, two psets. If I leave now, I might get about a half hour of sleep before my test... I'll be back tomorrow though.

#### COROT

Get some sleep. See you tomorrow.

*FARADAY exits.*

### BUILDING ROMANCE START 2

Everyone begins to leave as they all become hosed. TESS, COROT, and BILLY are the only ones left until COROT too has to leave to work on the arduino.

### BUILDING ROMANCE 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.

### BUILDING ROMANCE START 3

BILLY and TESS begin to grow more fond of each other...  
BUILDING ROMANCE BREAK 3

*Kepler enters carrying his laptop.*

**KEPLER**

Hey Tess.

**TESS**

Oh, hey Kepler.

*KEPLER 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... Is he here to help on the hack?

**TESS**

Probably not. Corot and I used to hang out with him a lot, but now he's always hosed.

*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...

**BUILDING ROMANCE START 4**

Kepler leaves. The romance deepens between TESS and BILLY.

**BUILDING ROMANCE BREAK 4**

## SCENE 1.5 -- 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?

**HUNTER** (*offstage*)

Cookies! Chocolate chip monster gingersnap cookies!

(*entering 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 UPPERCLASSMEN and FRESHMEN run on stage. Ad libs: "Aw, yes!", "Mmmmm! Were these from scratch?", "These taste vegan. I think they're vegan. Whatever..." , "I'm feeling a little jittery."*

**TESS**

Hunter, we're just building the-

**HUNTER**

Listen.

(*putting 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 gasps and ad libs in frantic whispers: "The November Rule??", "Are they mad!?", "Insanity!", "They won't possibly survive!", "Cthulhu have mercy!"*

**BILLY**

The "November Rule?"

*Again, upon hearing the words, "November Rule," everyone except BILLY and TESS ad libs in frantic whispers: "No... No!!!", "It can't be so!", "Not the November Rule!", "It hurts to hear the words!!"*

What's the -

*(pause)*

What is... you know...

**HUNTER**

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

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

Well, let me tell you...

**~~~~~ THE NOVEMBAT ~~~~~**

MENS ET MANUS MAY BE OUR DECREE  
WHEN HEARD OUTSIDE THE SCHOOL  
INSIDE IT'S PARETE LEGI NOVEMBRI  
OBEY THE NOVEMBER RULE  
BEFORE NOVEMBER, KEEP OFF THE FROSH  
ALL SKETCHY FEELINGS MUST BE SQUASHED  
THE FOOL THAT BREAKS THIS SACRED LAW  
SOON FEELS CRUEL TOOTH AND NAIL AND CLAW

**BILLY**

Oh come on, It's not like a nightmare-horror-maw creature will come and devour your body and feast on your entrails if you...

*Everyone stares at BILLY.*

.. is it?

**ENSEMBLE**

PARETE LEGI NOVEMBRI! PARETE LEGI NOVEMBRI! PARETE LEGI NOVEMBRI!  
PARETE LEGI NOVEMBRI!

PARETE LEGI NOVEMBRI! PARETE LEGI NOVEMBRI! PARETE LEGI NOVEMBRI!  
 PARETE LEGI NOVEMBRI!  
 PA-RE-TE LE-GI NO-VEM-BRI! PA-RE-TE LE-GI NO-VEM-BRI!  
 PA-RE-TE LE-GI NO-VEM-BRI! PA-RE-TE LE-GI NO-VEM-BRI!

**HUNTER**

THE CURSE THAT HAND-HOLDING BRINGS  
 THE NOVEMBAT

**ENSEMBLE**

THE NOVEMBAT!

**HUNTER**

WITH GIANT LEATHERY WINGS,  
 COMES TO INCREASE YOUR P-SET BLUES BY FILLING UP THE PRINTER  
 QUEUES,  
 THAT'S SURE TO END  
 MOST AUTUMN FLINGS!

**ENSEMBLE**

PA-RE-TE LE-GI NO-VEM-BRI! PA-RE-TE LE-GI NO-VEM-BRI!

**BILLY AND TESS**

OH NO, WE'RE NOT, WE'RE JUST GOOD FRIENDS,  
 THAT'S NOT AT ALL WHAT WE INTEND.

**ENSEMBLE**

PARETE LEGI NOVEMBRI! PARETE LEGI NOVEMBRI!  
 PA-RE-TE LE-GI NO-VEM-BRI! PA-RE-TE LE-GI NO-VEM-BRI!

**HUNTER**

IF YOU HUG AND LINGER TOO LONG  
 THE NOVEMBAT

**ENSEMBLE**

THE NOVEMBAT!

**HUNTER**

WITH PUTRID STINKING MAW,

EXHALES TO CAUSE COMPLETE SEDATION AND LOSS OF THE SKILL OF  
INTEGRATION.  
THAT COULD BE THE FINAL STRAW!

**ENSEMBLE**

PA-RE-TE LE-GI NO-VEM-BRI! PA-RE-TE LE-GI NO-VEM-BRI!

**BILLY and TESS**

OH NO, WE'RE NOT, WE'RE JUST GOOD FRIENDS,  
THAT'S NOT AT ALL WHAT WE INTEND.

**ENSEMBLE**

PARETE LEGI NOVEMBRI! PARETE LEGI NOVEMBRI!  
PARETE LEGI NOVEMBRI! PARETE LEGI NOVEMBRI!

**HUNTER**

IF YOU KISS YOU SHOULD KNOW IT'S UNWISE.  
THE NOVEMBAT

**ENSEMBLE**

THE NOVEMBAT!

**HUNTER**

WITH GLOWING DEMONIC EYES,  
ERASES THE ANSWERS ON YOUR TEST THEN CAUSES GPA DISTRESS -  
THAT SHOULD MAKE YOU BREAK YOUR TIES!

**ENSEMBLE**

PA-RE-TE LE-GI NO-VEM-BRI! PA-RE-TE LE-GI NO-VEM-BRI!

**BILLY and TESS**

OH NO, WE'RE NOT, WE'RE JUST GOOD FRIENDS  
THAT'S NOT AT ALL WHAT WE INTEND

**ENSEMBLE**

PA-RE-TE LE-GI NO-VEM-BRI! PA-RE-TE LE-GI NO-VEM-BRI!

**HUNTER**

IF YOU FUCK 'CUZ YOU COULDN'T RESIST



THE NOVEMBAT

**ENSEMBLE**

THE NOVEMBAT

**HUNTER**

WITH KNIFE-LIKE MURDEROUS GRIP  
WILL WHISK YOU TO THE GREEN BUILDING ROOF  
AND DROP YOU WITH ONE KICK OF HIS HOOF  
YOU'LL BE DESTROYED BY THIS LUSTFUL SLIP

**ENSEMBLE**

PA-RE-TE LE-GI NO-VEM-BRI! PA-RE-TE LE-GI NO-VEM-BRI!

**HUNTER**

YOU'VE GOTTEN TOO CLOSE, YOU CAN'T DENY  
HEED MY WARNING AND DON'T DARE DEFY

**HUNTER**

So don't even fucking think about it!

*HUNTER grabs some cookies, shoves them into TESS's and BILLY's respective mouths, picks up the tray and runs offstage with the crowd.*

**BILLY**

*(taking 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.

*KEPLER enters carrying his laptop.*

**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**

If you need a hand, I can probably spare -

**BILLY**

Oooh, me!

**COROT**

Awesome, Billy. 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.*

**TESS**

I'm gonna grab my jacket. Billy?

**BILLY**

Yeah?

**TESS**

Never mind.

*(pausing to think)*

Oh, hey, do you need a sweater or anything?

**BILLY**

Sure.

*TESS exits. To KEPLER:*

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**

But I just...

**KEPLER**

I said I wasn't invited.

**TESS** *(offstage)*

Hey!

*(entering 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 and they make eye contact. Before the moment can become romantic, the sound of an demonic bat is heard overhead and the lights dim into "Novembat" setting. BILLY and TESS pause, look up in fear, and then immediately recoil and the presence of the Novembat disseminates. BILLY and TESS take a moment to look around and make sure that their lives are no longer in danger.*

**BILLY**

*(dazedly)*

Let's go.

**TESS**

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

Right. Oh, see you around, Kepler!

*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?

**KEPLER**

Of course not. They would never leave you behind.

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

**COROT**

Listen, if you want to come -

**KEPLER**

*(slamming laptop shut)*

You're a bit late, asshole.

**COROT**

What the hell? Sort out your shit!

*COROT exits.*

**CALL IN START**

KEPLER sings an internal monologue expressing his anger with COROT. Wrought with passion, he calls the CP's and tells them that the hackers are on the roof.

**CALL IN END**

## 1.6 -- Distraction Tango

*BILLY, TESS, COROT, PISTON, FARADAY, TALIA, RYAN and ANNA are stationed on the roof. They are obscured by shadows but may be seen as choreography requires. 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.*

**PACHINO** (Offstage)

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

**CLAW** (Offstage)

I think so -

*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.*

- though Boston get's pretty cold in October. I don't think anyone would be doing anything tonight.

**ABRI**

FLUX TO MUSE, ALERT, WE HAVE SEEN SOME CP'S  
OUTSIDE OF BUILDING THREE.

THEY'RE HEADING YOUR WAY, BUT THERE'S NO NEED TO RUSH.  
WE WILL HOLD UP THE LAW.

**CLAW**

WAIT A MINUTE FREY, I THOUGHT I HEARD A NOISE

**PACHINO**

COULD BE ONE OF THEM HACKERS,

**CLAW**

YEAH!

**PACHINO**

ONE OF THEIR DEPLOYS.  
MAKING FOOLS OF THE FUZZ

**CLAW**

THEY'LL REGRET IT BECAUSE

**PACHINO and CLAW**

WE WILL UPHOLD THE LAW

**CHROME**

ALRIGHT I'VE GOT IT, I KNOW WHAT WE NEED,  
PLAY ALONG AND FOLLOW MY LEAD.  
CUZ IF WE DON'T STOP THEM OUR PLANS WILL BE CRUSHED,

**ABRI and CHROME**

LET'S GO HOLD UP THE LAW.

**PACHINO**

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

**CLAW**

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

**PACHINO**

THEY'RE MOCKING US COPS

**CLAW**  
BUT WE WILL NOT STOP

**BOTH**  
UPHOLDING THE LAW

**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 comes from the roof.*

**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 saying "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.*

**DISTRACTION TANGO START 2**

**PACHINO** calls for backup. The scouts continue to try to distract the cops.

**DISTRACTION TANGO BREAK 2**

*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 the music)*

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

**PACHINO**

They're right up -



**ABRI**

*(cutting 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.

*(flourish in music)*

*Another loud noise is heard from the roof and all the CP's look up. The hackers are out of sight.*

**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 radio.*

**DISTRACTION TANGO START 2**

The scouts continue to try to distract the cops, now more frantic. They tango with the cops.

**DISTRACTION TANGO BREAK 2**

*The rest of the stage goes dark SPRINKLES spotlights the hackers. The 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 -  
*(stripping sketchy clothes and putting on a polo shirt)*

**OFFSTAGE CP VOICE**

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**

*Lights fade up on STORY JACK, who is now putting back on sketchy clothes.*

**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 fade down on STORY JACK and 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. TESS, BILLY, COROT, PISTON, FARADAY, TALIA, RYAN, ANNA, trudge into the police station followed by SPRINKLES and PACHINO.*

**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**

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

**PACHINO**

*(still nose to nose with RYAN)*

*To SPRINKLES:*

Fine...sir.

*To RYAN:*

I've got my eyes on you...

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

**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. 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.

**SPRINKLES**

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

**KALF**

Sir, we had nothing on them. There's no reason why we couldn't just let them go on their way. 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, Claw, start questioning these kids!

*PACHINO reenters.*

**PACHINO**

*(indicating RYAN)*

Dibs on that one! Sir, your coffee.

**SPRINKLES**

Alright, alright! 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, PISTON, ANNA and others, KALF with TESS and TALIA and others, and SPRINKLES with COROT.*

#### INTERROGATION START

Interrogate the hackers.

#### INTERROGATION BREAK 1

*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

Let's see, I have your name, your dorm room, your phone number... but there seems to be one bit of crucial information I'm missing...

#### COROT

My favorite color?

#### SPRINKLES

No. What I'm wondering, is why are you wasting everyone's time?

#### COROT

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

#### SPRINKLES

You think that? Maybe you should pay more attention to how your fellow students feel about all this shenaniganry.

#### COROT

What do you mean?

#### INTERROGATION START 2

CP's interrogate the hackers and SPRINKLES harshly chastises COROT. COROT sings internally about how he's no longer sure whether or not SPRINKLES is right.

INTERROGATION END

**SPRINKLES**

*To COROT:*

If I catch *you* again, I'll see that *you're* expelled.

*Shouting to everyone:*

Get the hell out of here!! Goddammit!

*Blackout.*

**SCENE 2.2 -- Wank, Wank, Wank**

*ABRI and CHROME are waiting around the hall for their friends to return.*

**ABRI**

How long has it been?

**CHROME**

Three hours I think?

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

**PISTON**

Frickin' cops! Dammit!

**RYAN**

I'm just glad they let us go home.

**ANNA**

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**

Hey! We jumped through some flaming fucking hoops for you down there - there were two CP's that never reached the roof thanks to us!

**PISTON**

Oh yeah?! Then why did we get caught?

**CHROME**

Chill, man. We were in contact with Talia, sometimes shit happens.

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

**TALIA**

Woah, dude, don't get started on me.

**BILLY**

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

**PISTON**

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

**TESS**

*(spoken during BILLY's next line)*

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

**BILLY**

*(spoken during TESS's previous line)*

I'm not stupid! And I'm not trying to distract her, I'm trying to put up this hack!

**PISTON**

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

**WANK, WANK, WANK START**

People throw blame around. They blame ABRI and CHROME for being careless, TALIA for not being more responsive, BILLY for distracting TESS, TESS for letting BILLY distract her, COROT for not putting more thought into the situation and being a shitty leader. KEPLER, from another room, sings about how he needs to say he's sorry, but doesn't say it at all. COROT takes responsibility. All but TESS, COROT, and BILLY exit in anger. KEPLER sings about how he should apologize.

**WANK, WANK, WANK END**

**KEPLER**

*(entering the room with intentions to apologize)*



Corot, I...

*(notices BILLY is sitting with TESS and COROT)*

Fuck you. I called you in. I did it.

*KEPLER runs out of the room.*

**BILLY**

Tess, why did he say that? Did he really -

**TESS**

Shut up. Leave.

**BILLY**

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

**TESS**

You heard me frosh. Leave!

*BILLY exits. Lights fade down on TESS and COROT.*

### Scene 2.3 -- Flashback

*STORY JACK sits on the floor. STORY JACK is now a freshman, wearing less sketchy garb than before, but still wearing a distinguishing article of clothing (hat!). Note: this should be something visible enough to let the audience know that STORY JACK is not a new character. KEPLER storms into the room, hurling punches and angry vocalizations. He punches a hole in the wall. STORY JACK does not recoil.*

#### KEPLER

Dammit! Why the fuck did I say that??

*KEPLER glares at STORY JACK.*

What do you want, frosh?

*STORY JACK shrugs.*

Look, do you want something or not? Want food? There's some in the lounge.

*STORY JACK just stares.*

You don't talk much, do you.

*STORY JACK doesn't move.*

You want something from me, don't you. Yeah. You probably want to be the fly on the wall that solves everyone's problems by listening. That's a crock of shit.

*STORY JACK smiles.*

*(laughing wryly)*

It's not like you're going to tell anyone anyway...

Start underscore for The Flashback.

When I was a freshman, Corot and I used to go hacking a lot together, almost every night... Corot, Tess, and I actually.

*KEPLER steps back to become part of a flashback to a dorm room. Lights change to flashback setting. COROT and KEPLER are now sitting on a bed, drinking soda. TESS leans in the doorway.*

**TESS**

Hey! Wanna 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.

*COROT, TESS and KEPLER are hacking in the background. Lights change to STORY JACK.*

**STORY JACK**

*To Audience:*

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!

*Lights change to KEPLER and STORY JACK.*

**KEPLER**

*to STORY JACK:*

Every week we would meet up in my room and pick a new place to explore! Damn, those were good times.

*Lights come up on COROT and TESS, standing in the meeting room.*

**TESS and KEPLER**

We used to be such good friends.

**TESS**

God, he wasn't joking was he?

**COROT**

Kepler doesn't joke. No one jokes about that. I mean, even when he had crazy ideas, he was always totally serious about them...

*Lighting shifts back to flashback setting.*

**KEPLER**

Some day man, some day.

**COROT**

Rappel off that?

*(pointing at the dome)*

**KEPLER**

Counter balance style, of course.

*(bro-clasping hands with COROT)*

**COROT**

No anchor like your friend.

*Lights fade and refocus on STORY JACK.*

**STORY JACK**

*To Audience:*

And with each adventure, the hackers grew to be an unstoppable trio. No roof was too high, no shaft too tall. The three could do anything together. But no good thing lasts forever...

**KEPLER**

*To STORY JACK:*

I took an internship in California that summer. Shit, I thought it was going to be fun. Turned out I was just slogging through spreadsheets while my friends continued to go hacking. I couldn't have expected them to wait for me. That would have been dumb - but when I got back...

*KEPLER steps backwards to become part of a new flashback. TESS, COROT have headlamps and are laughing to each other.*

**COROT**

You know what this place reminds me of?

**KEPLER**

*(spoken under TESS's next line)*

...No?

**TESS**

*(spoken over KEPLER's previous line)*

Yeah!

**COROT**

That place we went in July?

**TESS**

Haha, yes! The one where you had to *[ad lib]*?

**KEPLER**

Wait, you had to -

**COROT**

Tess, you have *no* right to talk. You're the one who tried distracting the CP's by--

**TESS**

Nooo! You said you would never tell anyone!

*(laughs)*

That was an awesome night though.

**STORY JACK**

*To Audience:*

And as time passed, he learned more and more about what he had missed out on.

**KEPLER**

*To STORY JACK:*

...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 -

*Lights fade from KEPLER and STORY JACK and fade up on TESS and COROT.  
TESS and COROT are back in the room from before the flashback.*

**COROT**

*(bitterly)*

"I'm too busy". That's what Kepler would have said if we had asked him to help. I can't believe he called us in!

**TESS**

He's been acting so weird lately and I really don't get it...

**COROT**

I don't get it either. Why don't people just say what they mean?

**KEPLER**

*To STORY JACK:*

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 STORY*

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.

*(pause)*

I have to go to lab.

*KEPLER grabs his things and exits. Blackout.*

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

*Lights come up. Billy is sitting at a desk tooling, looking sad, and making frustrated noises at his pset. AESOP walks up next to BILLY and sits down, opens up a book and starts reading.*

**BILLY**

Ugh!

*BILLY crumples up a paper and throws it offstage. AESOP looks up at BILLY, but then quickly goes back to his book. BILLY continues to tool, scribbling furiously.*

ermmmm!

*Again, BILLY crumples up a paper and throws it offstage. BILLY collapses across the pset, moaning. AESOP looks up and clears his throat. pause. AESOP clears his throat again.*

**AESOP**

Do you need any help?

**BILLY**

*(his face still down on the desk)*

Nothing a stranger could help with... unless you're course 8.

**AESOP**

Hard pset, huh.

**BILLY**

*(lifting his head from the desk)*

Look, I'm not feeling really great, could you go away? I don't even know you.

**AESOP**

And I don't know you. What's your name?

**BILLY**

Billy.



**AESOP**

Nice name. You a freshman, Billy?

**BILLY**

Yes.

**AESOP**

Pretty bummed out for a freshman on pass/no record.

**BILLY**

Please go away.

**AESOP**

All right, Billy. I'll go.

*(gets up to leave)*

My name's Aesop, in case you were wondering.

**BILLY**

*(head snaps up, looks incredulously at AESOP)*

Wait, Aesop? Aesop, the fabled?

**AESOP**

Bye Billy.

**BILLY**

Hold on! You're really Aesop?

**AESOP**

You're making it pretty hard for me to leave.

**BILLY**

Wait, I... You don't have to go.

**AESOP**

I promised I would, and I'd hate to lie to you. But, I think you should come with me.

**BILLY**

Really?

**AESOP**

Come on. Let's go wandering.

*BILLY 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. There is a visible panel on the wall.*

**BILLY**

I can't get over it, It's really you!

**AESOP**

Calm down, Billy. It's just a name.

**BILLY**

Sorry. Hey... Aesop... 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 stop walking, facing a wall.*

Here we are.

**BILLY**

A wall?

**AESOP**

Sure, but what's on the other side?

**BILLY**

*(knocking 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 (insert features of set) and a panel. But I'm still not sure I could open the tomb.  
What if I push this?

*BILLY pushes the panel and a small door opens. The door is above ground level.*

Woah!! What was that?

*BILLY holds the panel again and the small door in the wall opens again, but falls when he brings his hand off and tries to run over. Tries multiple times.*

Shit...

**AESOP**

When you looked around, you missed something which could be helpful.

*AESOP points to him/herself. BILLY, realizing, presses the panel. AESOP holds the physical door open, allowing BILLY to enter, and then follows him in. Lights change 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**

*(noticing sign-ins)*

Woah, cool, sign-ins!

**AESOP**

Yeah, I won't forget when Sophocles, Aristotle, and I found this tomb. Looks like no one has been here in a while...

**BILLY**

Wow, I didn't think we would be able to get in here.

**AESOP**

Getting in here seemed hard at first, but once you figured out the trick, it was easy.

*BILLY lets out a sigh.*

Something the matter?

**BILLY**

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, it's just not satisfying. I don't know why I'm here any more.

**AESOP**

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

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

**BILLY**

More to life than tooling? I already know that. I'm not a big tool or anything. I know you probably got a weird first impression of me, but I'm not like that.

**AESOP**

It's not just about tooling. Keep listening. Verse two.

THERE IS MORE TO STUDY BREAKS  
 THAN BAKING CHOCOLATE CAKE  
 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.

**BILLY**

Cakes?? I don't need cakes, I have hacking. Hacking is what I do with my friends...

*AESOP gives BILLY a knowing look.*

Oh!

**AESOP**

THERE IS MORE TO PULLING HACKS  
THAN STORIES FROM THE JACKS  
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.  
'CUZ THE REAL MAGIC HAPPENS ELSEWHERE  
WITH THE FACES BEHIND THE SHOW.

**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 CHAPTER IN THE STORY OF OUR LIVES.

**BILLY**

THERE'S MORE TO LIFE THAN HACKING,

**AESOP**

AND THERE'S MORE TO LIFE THAN PUNTING,

**BILLY and AESOP**

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

**AESOP**

Come on, let's get out of this tomb. It's sentimental, but it's also very dusty. Besides, you seem ready to get back to work.

**BILLY**

Oh god - the hack! It's almost Halloween!

**AESOP**

There's still time to make things right.

**BILLY**

Yeah! Thanks so much for the study break!

**AESOP**

Anytime.

*BILLY leaves AESOP and finds the FROSHSOMBLE whom he motivates to join him. BILLY and the FROSH find COROT, alone with pieces of the hack. With the army of FROSH, they work together to complete the hack with UPPERCLASSMEN joining as well.*

**ALL**

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.

**ANNA**

THERE'S MORE TO LIFE THAN HACKING,

**RYAN**

YEAH THERE'S MORE TO LIFE THAN PUNTING,

**ALL**

THERE IS MORE TO LIFE THAN TOOLING, DON'T YOU KNOW.

*Kepler comes out of the shadows, humming the tune, re-inspired. Blackout*

## SCENE 2.5 -- Platonic Friends Again

*Lights come up on the hall. 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.*

**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.

**"PLATONIC FRIENDS AGAIN" START**

TESS and BILLY sing about how much they love each other, but they cannot say it outright or the Novembat will come and slay them. Every time they come close to saying something romantic, the Novembat's presence is felt.



**"PLATONIC FRIENDS AGAIN" 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 2.6 -- Radio Chatter

*The lighting shifts to COROT with UPPERCLASSMEN and FRESHMEN 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).*

### COROT

All right everyone. Remember, we're going to be using Intercom Hacker Transmission Frequency Photonulators to communicate, or "IHTFP's" for short. Please do a quick check to make sure they're working.

*Another note to the costume/props designer: the IHTFP's should be fucking ridiculous.*

### RADIO CHATTER START

Everyone calls check. Example,

TALIA -- "This is muse, check."

ABRI -- "Gochya, This is flux, check?"

### SONG BREAK

### COROT

Everyone's IHTFP working? Awesome, scouts head out!

*Scouts exit except FARADAY who yawns and lags behind the other scouts.*

Hey Faraday, are you good to go?

### FARADAY

I was up all-night finishing my 6.005 lab, but I'll be fine.

*(shouting as he exits the stage)*

Caffeine works wonders!

*BILLY, TESS, and HUNTER enter.*

### BILLY

Sorry, we're late, we were...

### HUNTER

They were about to make out!

**BILLY**

No we -

**COROT**

Okay, Everybody focus. Billy, Tess, help grab the bags with the Dragon Wing. Talia, let us know when the scouts say it's safe to move out.

**RADIO CHATTER START 2**

Scouts transmit about the status of different areas

**RADIO CHATTER BREAK 2**

*FARADAY is on the ground level fumbling to stay awake.*

**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...

*Focus shifts to TALIA who is communicating with FARADAY via IHTFP.*

**TALIA**

Muse to Cage, is the next building clear?

**FARADAY**

*(drowsily)*

A-yep... I should set an alarm...

FARADAY falls asleep. CLAW and PACHINO enter.

**CLAW**

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

**TALIA**

*(spoken with the lights still on the CPs)*

Okay, we're clear to head up to the roof. Let's keep going.

**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?

**TALIA** *(over IHTFP)*

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)*

RADIO CHATTER START 3

PACHINO transmits to SPRINKLES

RADIO CHATTER BREAK 3

*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.*

Whoops, I'm sorry officer.

**PACHINO**

What are you doing up so late?

**KEPLER**

I was just getting a -

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

**TALIA** (over IHTFP)

Were almost ready to start. Just 3 more attachments.

**PACHINO**

Just getting a what?

**CLAW**

Do you need a ride home?

**KEPLER**

(exasperatedly)

I want a pop tart!

**CLAW**

Maybe they should implement a dining plan too.

*KEPLER exits quickly.*

**RADIO CHATTER START 4**

More transmissions are heard as KEPLER begins his "hero's journey" to the roof, avoiding CP's and the ``wary eye of the grad student." He shows off his mad l33t skillz

**RADIO CHATTER END**

**SCENE 2.7 -- Hackers on the Roof**

*KEPLER comes across RYAN scouting in a hallway.*

**KEPLER**

Hey, frosh! Are they on the roof yet? Where's Corot?

**RYAN**

Huh? Who are you?

**KEPLER**

Dammit, never mind.

*KEPLER ninjas his way past RYAN. KEPLER, intent on reaching the roof, runs around a corner into CHROME.*

**CHROME**

Whoa! What the - Kepler what are you doing here?

**KEPLER**

CP's. I need to see Corot.

**CHROME**

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

**KEPLER**

I don't have time for this!

*KEPLER ninjas past CHROME only to run into PISTON on the roof. Ropes and webbing are strewn across the roof, ready to secure something large. COROT is far away from the entrance to the roof, PISTON is close to the roof entrance.*

**PISTON**

What the fuck are you doing here?

**KEPLER**

Move, I need to talk to Corot!

*KEPLER super-ninjas past PISTON and bursts out onto the roof.*

**KEPLER**

Corot! CP's! Get off the roof!

**COROT**

Kepler?

**KEPLER**

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

**TALIA**

Look, we don't need any of your "help"--

*COROT cuts off TALIA with a sharp wave of his hand. COROT gives KEPLER a long, hard look.*

**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)*

Grab that too.

**KELPER**

Sure.

**COROT**

Why'd you come up here?

**KEPLER**

Huh?

**COROT**

You just called us in and now you're trying to save us? You're pretty fucking inconsistent!

**KEPLER**

And you're pretty fucking insensitive. I'm doing you a favor.

**COROT**

Then tell me why you came up here. I feel like I'm playing this big stupid game with you.

**KEPLER**

*(sarcastic)*

Funny, you always seem too lost in your own world to care about anyone as little as me.

**COROT**

And you're just... I'm not going to start this. I'm trying to wrap my head around the way you think.

**KEPLER**

Well maybe you should just ask! When you and Tess left me behind -

**COROT**

Left you behind?

**KEPLER**

Yeah, we used to go hacking together and then you stopped -

**COROT**

No. We always invited you!

**KEPLER**

You may as well have not. When I came back, you were two strangers - strangers who cared too much about their own inside jokes to let in an old friend.



*(pause)*

**COROT**

That's it?

**KEPLER**

What do you mean, that's it? That's a hell of a lot.

*(sighs)*

I've never been good at all this stuff, okay.

**COROT**

Kepler, it's fine. I mean... shit... I suck at this too. I'm sorry about all that, *I am*. You just need to tell me these things, man.

**KEPLER**

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

**COROT**

Let's do it.

**KEPLER**

Do what?

**COROT**

*(snapping into showman mode)*

The counterbalance.

**KEPLER**

Huh?

**COROT**

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.*

*Start underscore for "Counter Balance"*

**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.

*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**

Yippie-kie-yay, motherfucker!

**KEPLER**

I'll take that as a yes.

**START COUNTER BALANCE RAPPEL**

**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.**

**END COUNTER BALANCE RAPPEL**

*SPRINKLES bursts onto the roof as the rope slips out of sight. He is flanked by PACHINO and CLAW. KALF saunters after the rest.*

**SPRINKLES**

All right! Now we've got them!

*(to the other CP's)*

They've got to be up here somewhere! Search every nook and cranny!

*(to the air)*

Come out! We know you're up here... somewhere...

**KALF**

Sir, the roof is flat. I think they've come down. Sir. Sir?

*SPRINKLES looks around and then collapses to his knees.*

**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. Let it go.

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

**CLAW**

Is Dunkin' still open?

START "Let's let those fuckers be"

KALF sings a verse about how the hackers got away, but they're not real criminals.

END "Let's let those fuckers be"

*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.

START "Punchline"

STORY JACK wraps up the story and reiterates the moral in a short song.

END "Punchline"

**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.

**TESS**

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. It's past midnight.

**TESS**

Does this mean...

*BILLY hesitantly reaches out his hand to grab TESS's and looks around, listening for signs of the Novembat, but none are heard or seen.*

**TESS and BILLY**

It's November!

*They kiss lightly, then hesitate, listening again for the Novembat.*

**BILLY**

Tess... I ...

*They kiss again, hardk0re.*

What?

**TESS**

I ...

**BILLY**

Yes?

**TESS**

I have an idea for a hack!

**BILLY**