

Hologram  
by  
Sarah Sperry

Sarah Sperry  
410 Memorial Dr.

INT. STAIRS -- DAY

Two young men walking down a set of nondescript concrete stairs.

INT. STAIRS -- DAY

The two young men reach the bottom of the stairs and a door leading the basement tunnels. There are small cameras above the door and a HAND SCANNER to one side of the door. The young man in the lead is JAMES THOMSON, 21, an average-looking guy with a bit of artsy flair. The second man is EVERETT SCOTT, 22, who, unlike James, is a nerd and looks the part even if he does not have the social awkwardness that sometimes accompanies the label. Everett is wearing a backpack.

EVERETT

Do you think that Jackie will have -

-

Everett trails off as they near the door and the camera's surrounding it. James puts his hand to the scanner to unlock the door and they both pass through.

INT. TUNNELS -- DAY

James and Everett emerge from the door and start walking down a concrete basement tunnel. Some used electronic bits and pieces lay scattered at odd intervals along the walls with "REUSE" signs taped on the walls above them. The tunnels contain small cameras on the ceiling and near doors. Long lists of rules are also flashing on MONITORS mounted on the walls. Other STUDENTS are also walking up and down the tunnel. The tunnels are a little crowded and some people are holding umbrellas.

Once they are far enough away from the cameras around the door Everett continues speaking.

EVERETT

Will she be done with it?

JAMES

We can hope.

EVERETT

She has to be done with the hologram by tonight! I did as much as I could with the technology but...

(MORE)

EVERETT (CONT'D)  
 (drops to a whisper as  
 they approach a camera)  
 She has to! She's the master of  
 all the tech past Hologram 8.9. If  
 she's not done tonight we can't -

JAMES  
 I know. I know. You don't think I  
 know by now?

EVERETT  
 Yeah, I just...I'm worried. The  
 bastards will find us and shut us  
 down soon if we don't...

James and Everett pass through the door at the end of the  
 tunnel.

EXT. MASSACHUSETTS AVE SIDEWALK - DAY

James and Everett emerge onto the sidewalk beside  
 Massachusetts Ave - right beside the crosswalk that leads  
 into Lobby 7 and one of MIT's domes. The light is green and  
 the two have to stop on the sidewalk.

It is raining heavily. James looks unconcerned. Everett  
 struggles to get an umbrella out of his backpack.

EVERETT  
 Yeah. I know what you're thinking.

James does not respond and instead stares in amusement at  
 Everett struggling unsuccessfully to fit both himself and his  
 huge backpack under the tiny bright pink UMBRELLA.

EVERETT (CONT'D)  
 Just say it!

JAMES  
 I wasn't thinking anything.

EVERETT  
 (mocking James' voice)  
 You need a new umbrella. Not only  
 is that one too small - it's pink.  
 (normal voice)  
 But it was FREE!

Light turns red and they begin walking across the street.

JAMES  
 So we're meeting Jackie in Killian  
 Court?

EVERETT

Huh, oh, no. Jackie changed the meeting location.

JAMES

....what?

EVERETT

We'll be meeting on the sidewalk on Memorial Drive right next to Walker Memorial.

James ascends the steps up to Lobby 7 in silence. Everett follows.

EVERETT (CONT'D)

Don't be grumpy. We'll get there just the same. We won't be late.

Both enter the building.

EXT. BETWEEN BUILDINGS -- NIGHT

James and Everett are exiting a building into a courtyard surrounded by more buildings. Everett begins his ritual struggle with the pink umbrella as they exit the building. They walk quickly through the rain and disappear around a corner.

EXT. BETWEEN BUILDINGS - NIGHT

They are in another courtyard between buildings. It contains a fairly open grassy courtyard with a small artistic rendition of the Green Building and a PLAQUE along the edge detailing the fall of the building itself.

PLAUQE

Former site of the Cecil and Ida Green building. Dedicated on October 7, 1964. Site of multiple hacks by the Massachusetts Institute of Technology student body. Demolished in the fall of 2028 due to structural flaws.

James and Everett stop alongside the plaque. James is staring in silence at the center of the courtyard. Everett reads the plaque for the billionth time and stops struggling with his umbrella.

JAMES

Fifty years ago.

EVERETT

Yeah...Come on. We have to move.  
We can't be seen standing here much  
longer or we'll end up just like  
the last hackers did.

Everett gives James a physical nudge to get him moving towards the buildings on the other side of the square. They walk in silence and disappear around the corner of the Walking Memorial building.

EXT. MEMORIAL DRIVE SIDEWALK OUTSIDE WALKER MEMORIAL BUILDING  
- NIGHT

James and Everett round the corner and see JACKIE, 20, sitting on the steps into the building with a large green umbrella in one hand. Jackie is petite and can only be described as cute, but she is also a tomboy.

Jackie stands up and walks down to the sidewalk when she sees them. She begins to pull something wrapped up in old editions of the campus newspaper from a large pocket in her jacket.

When James and Everett get close enough she begins unwrapping the package.

EVERETT

(harsh whisper)  
What are you doing?! Not in  
public!

JACKIE

(laughing)  
Chill, E. I promise it's perfectly  
safe.

Jackie finishes unwrapping the package to reveal a small, green beat-up looking IPOD.

JACKIE (CONT'D)

It's one of those, uh, iPods I  
think they were called. I found it  
on a cheap discount site selling  
outdated electronics. I figured  
the outside would be good for our  
purposes.

Jackie hands the iPod over to James for inspection and puts her umbrella over them both to protect it from the rain.

JAMES

...It's perfect, Jackie. It may be outdated, but --

EVERETT

No one will look twice at an outdated piece of tech. All they'll notice is the outside and not even think that the inside doesn't match...

Everett excitedly takes the iPod from James and inspects it.

JAMES

It really is good, Jackie, but will it work?

JACKIE

Well, there won't be a way to know that for sure until you plug it in. Everything looked correct as far as I know.

EVERETT

(Still inspecting the iPod)  
Wireless?

JACKIE

Yeah. I changed the model a little bit. We no longer use any of the cables that it originally came with to connect to computer systems so I had to outfit it with some sort of wireless capabilities if it was going to actually function at all.

JAMES

Is all the rest of the equipment set up?

JACKIE

You would know as well as I considering you helped install it. But yes, I did a double check and it appears to be fine.

All three stare at the iPod.

JACKIE (CONT'D)

Well, not that you two aren't the most interesting creatures on this planet, but I should probably be heading back.

EVERETT

All ready for look-out?

JACKIE

Yup. All set. I'll be in my room at East Campus

Jackie turns to go away and then turns half-way back around.

JACKIE (CONT'D)

This is it guys. Don't blow it.

Jackie turns quickly away before either can respond.

JAMES

She's right. This is it.

Everett, for once, is speechless. James takes the iPod, wraps it back up in the old newspaper, and stuffs it in Everett's backpack.

JAMES (CONT'D)

To the tunnels?

EVERETT

To the tunnels.

They turn and head to a nearby entrance.

INT. TUNNELS -- NIGHT

James and Everett walk down the basement tunnels. The tunnels are a little less full of STUDENTS. Both walk quickly and look into the window of each computer cluster they pass.

INT. TUNNELS -- NIGHT

James and Everett pass multiple clusters full of STUDENTS.

EVERETT

This isn't looking good. Why is everyone in the computer clusters tonight? We need an empty one...

JAMES

Keep looking. There are enough clusters that there must be one with almost no one in it.

EVERETT

We've past like twenty clusters already --

JAMES

HA! There!

James and Everett stop in front of the door to a cluster.

Through the window: nearly empty with the exception of one snoring STUDENT at a terminal at the back of the cluster. James keys in the code to open the door and they go inside.

EVERETT

Luck. Pure luck.

INT. COMPUTER CLUSTER -- NIGHT

James and Everett choose terminals side-by-side and sit down. Everett logs on first with James watching. Everett types rapidly. James reaches into Everett's backpack and pulls out and unwraps the iPod. He places it on the table beside his terminal.

Everett nods to James in silence. James begins typing. He pauses briefly to press a few buttons on the iPod and then resumes typing.

INT. COMPUTER CLUSTER -- NIGHT

James and Everett stop typing and stare at the iPod as it begins flashing. Every light in the computer cluster flickers rapidly before throwing everyone into darkness. All the terminals simultaneously go dark and produce a powering down sound. The only light comes from a small light on the iPod that is steadily flashing a PALE GREEN LIGHT.

STUDENT

(waking up)  
...wha -

JACKIE (O.S.)

(issuing from the iPod)  
It's up! I see it! It's up!

James and Everett grab the iPod and run out of the computer cluster.

INT. TUNNELS -- NIGHT

James and Everett run headlong down the tunnel as everywhere around them small backup lights begin to flicker into life and the sounds of long-unused backup generators rumble in the background.

EXT. BETWEEN BUILDINGS -- NIGHT

James and Everett come tearing out into the open air. It has stopped raining. Students are emerging from other buildings and stairwells. It is almost completely dark except for the small numbers of lights powered by the backup generators. Everyone is talking about the blackout in whispers and slowly moving as a growing mob towards an area of INTENSE LIGHT down the sidewalk and around the corner of the nearest building.

James and Everett do not slow down and soon the entire crowd is running and the whispers have escalated to excited nonsense shouting.

The entire mob rounds the corner and the crowd roars in excitement. James and Everett stop dead as soon as they get around the corner with the crowd still pushing past them.

All look at: GREEN BUILDING HOLOGRAM.

In front of the mob and James and Everett stands a HUGE HOLOGRAPHIC IMAGE of the Green Building. Tetris is being played using the windows on the hologram.