

# HACK, PUNT, TOOL

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HACK, PUNT, TOOL BY ZACHARY BARRYTE,  
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HUBERT HWANG AND MATTHEW PUTNAM  
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SCRIPT AND VOCAL SCORE



**SCENE 1.0 -- The World of the Hacker****Stories**

*The stage is dark. A faint hum reminiscent of a machine room is heard from the stage. Shadowy figures begin to filter through the audience onto the stage. These are the SHADOW JACKS. They wander about the space, speaking to the audience in low voices, holding flashlights to their faces.*

**SHADOW JACK 0**

... Once upon a time, there was a boy hacker, and a girl hacker ...  
(pause)

**SHADOW JACK 1**

... There was a black square, a red square, and a yellow square ...

**SHADOW JACK 2**

... Thump! There was a cube fridge lodged in the president's lawn ...

**SHADOW JACK 3**

(overlapping)  
... some read, "No toad sexing," while others read, "Toad sexing allowed" ...

**SHADOW JACK 4**

(overlapping)  
... Don't touch that! It's a light sensitive biology experiment! ...

**SHADOW JACK 5**

(overlapping)  
... "I'm just picking grass for my cow, Officer" ...

**SHADOW JACK 6**

(overlapping)  
... "MIT, 1 -- Harvard-Yale, 0" ...

**SHADOW JACK 7**

(overlapping)  
... "Beware the bane of Hartley Rodgers/ Forcing voice and withered codgers" ...

**SHADOW JACK 8***(overlapping)*

... “Spartans! Who is your professor?” They all shouted back, “Auroux! Auroux! Auroux!” ...

**SHADOW JACK 9***(overlapping)*

... The officer smiled and said, “Miss Liberty looked real good up there. Get your stuff and get out of here, kids” ...

**SHADOW JACK 10***(overlapping)*

... instead of “Industry, the Arts, Agriculture and Commerce,” it said, “Industry, the Arts, Entertainment, and Hacking!” ...

*The SHADOW JACKS slip away into the darkness to reveal STORY JACK, an elegant, but deceitful looking figure garbed in all black, grinning, as if he knows something no one else does. STORY JACK steps forward, attempting to affect a more trustworthy personality upon seeing the audience.*

**STORY JACK**

Hi Everybody!

*The World of the Hacker*

**SHADOW JACKS and AUDIENCE**

Hi Jack!

**STORY JACK**

MY FRIENDS, MY FRIENDS,  
COME CLOSER,  
COME ALONG AND YOU WILL SEE  
A WONDROUS PLACE,  
A MARVELOUS REALM - THE LAND OF MIT!

BELOW THE WELL WAXED TILES,  
B'YOND AISLES OF WELL READ BOOKS,  
THERE LIES IN WAITING  
SOMETHING GREAT:  
INVIGORATING!

COME WITH ME, GO AHEAD, TAKE A LOOK FOR YOURSELF!

*STORY JACK gestures grandly around the space as different elements of the machine room become more clear.*

### STORY JACK

THIS IS THE WORLD OF THE HACKER:  
A WORLD INTENSE AND EXTREME!  
HEAR THE GENTLE HUM OF MACHINE ROOMS,  
THE CLATTER AND THE HISS OF STEAM!

NOW DESCEND THROUGH THE SHAFTS,  
FENDING DARK WITH A SPARK  
OF YOUR HEADLAMP, TO MARK OUT YOUR PATH 'TIL  
THE END!  
CRAWL 'ROUND PIPES AND ALL TYPES  
OF MACHINES, IN BETWEEN.  
I WON'T LEAD YOU ASTRAY!  
TRUST US, WE'RE YOUR FRIENDS!

### SHADOW JACKS

MMM, MMM

CLATTER! HISS!

TSS...KSH...  
TSS...KSH...  
TSS...KSH...  
TSS...KSH...  
TSS...KSH...  
TSS...

*Lights grow brighter to reveal the SHADOW JACKS surrounding STORY JACK.*

THIS WORLD IS RULED BY THE HACKER,  
A CREATURE BOTH CUNNING AND QUICK,  
WHO FLITS THROUGH THE NIGHT LIKE A SHADOW,  
WITH EVERY ILLUSION AND TRICK.  
GHOSTLY, LIKE MOSTLY A SPIRIT,  
SO SILENT, TO HEAR IT'S UNLIKELY, I'D SAY.  
BUT WHO ARE THESE ETHEREAL, SURREAL,  
YET IMPERIAL "HACKERS" ANYWAY?

AHHH!

CUNNING AND QUICK!  
LIKE A SHADOW...  
...so mischievous!  
GHOSTLY SPIRIT,  
YOU WON'T HEAR IT.  
WHO ARE THESE  
HACKERS?

Hackers are anonymous technological pranksters,  
engineers inspired to intervene with the everyday  
monotony. In order to perform bold feats, hackers often  
traverse MIT's more untraveled passageways, carefully  
avoiding the diligent eye of the law, and often unearthing  
locations hidden from the average passer-by!

KSH...  
TSS...  
(vamped)

*STORY JACK turns with a flourish as low lights come up on the wall of a small tomb with two sign-ins on it.*

*(Note: this room will be visited in the second act by KEPLER and BILLY)*

THIS PARTICULAR ROOM,	OOO...
IT IS CALLED A TOMB -	OOO...
A BLOCKED OFF CREVICE,	
FORGOTTEN, OUTCAST.	
SEE THE SHARPIE SCRAWLS ALONG THE WALLS,	AHHH...
SIGN-INS OF HACKERS OF THE PAST!	AHHH...

### **STORY JACK**

“Sign-ins” are hackers’ signatures, personal markings that can be identified only by their truest friends.

*Lights fade up on a wall containing the “Hacking Ethics.”*

Here you can see a very special bit of literature: the “Hacking Ethics!” These are the guidelines to which we noble hackers adhere! Pay attention!

### **SHADOW JACK 11**

The safety of yourself, of others, and of property should have highest priority!

### **SHADOW JACK 12**

*(overlapping)*

Be subtle; leave no evidence you were there.

### **SHADOW JACK 13**

*(overlapping)*

Brute force is the last resort of the incompetent.

### **SHADOW JACK 14**

*(overlapping)*

Cause no permanent damage during hacks and while hacking.

### **SHADOW JACK 15**

*(overlapping)*

If you find something broken, call F-IXIT.

**SHADOW JACK 16**

*(overlapping)*  
Do not steal anything.

**SHADOW JACK 17**

*(overlapping)*  
Do not drop things without a ground crew.

**SHADOW JACK 18**

*(overlapping)*  
Sign-ins are not graffiti and should not be seen by the general public.

**SHADOW JACK 19**

*(overlapping)*  
Never drink and hack.

**SHADOW JACK 20**

*(overlapping)*  
Never hack alone.

**SHADOW JACK 21**

*(overlapping)*  
Know your limitations and do not exceed them.

**SHADOW JACK 22**

*(overlapping)*  
Learn how not to get caught, but if you do get caught, accept gracefully and cooperate fully.

**SHADOW JACK 23**

*(overlapping)*  
Share your knowledge and experience with other hackers.

**STORY JACK and SHADOW JACKS**

And above all, exercise common sense.

**STORY JACK**

REMEMBER THE CODE OF THE HACKER,  
AS YOU DREAM OF UNCHARTED NOOKS.

**SHADOW JACKS**

REMEMBER THE CODE  
AS YOU DREAM OF  
UNCHARTED NOOKS.

THESE ETHICS KEEP US SEPARATE  
FROM CRIMINALS, VANDALS, AND CROOKS.

REFLECT ON THE LESSONS THESE FINE  
WORDS CONVEY.  
MAYBE YOU THINK THAT YOU'LL BE LIKE US  
ONE DAY!

YES, THIS IS THE WORLD OF THE HACKER  
OUR MAGICAL WORLD OF DEBRIS.  
OUTSIDERS MAY JUST SEE THE SURFACE,

MMM,  
MMM,  
FOLLOW THE ETHICS.  
AHHH!

MAYBE YOU THINK THAT  
YOU'LL BE LIKE US ONE DAY!

THE WORLD OF THE  
HACKER!  
MAGICAL WORLD OF DEBRIS!

### **STORY JACK and SHADOW JACKS**

BUT THIS IS THE REAL MIT!  
THIS IS THE REAL MIT!

*SHADOW JACKS exit.*

### **STORY JACK**

Hackers come and go, but they are never forgotten. We keep them alive by passing on their stories. Though you're not the most pantsful bunch I've seen, you've trusted me thus far, so perhaps I should share a bit of lore with you. Would you like to hear a story?

*(waits for audience response and responds appropriately)*

All right, then!

### *Our Story Begins*

LEND AN EAR AND YOU'LL HEAR A STORY  
THAT I DOUBT YOU'VE HEARD BEFORE.  
THIS TALE TAKES PLACE BACK IN THE DAY,  
WHEN THINGS WERE MORE HARDK0RE...



**SCENE 1.1 -- The Institute**

*Lights come up on BILLY, an eager freshman, carrying his luggage. Though he is new to campus, BILLY exudes the experience of a high school graduate who has worked very hard for most of his life.*

**STORY JACK**

Our story unfolds with a wee little frosh, ready and eager to begin his journey at this wonderful Institute. His mind was ready to be filled with knowledge, as many froshlings' minds are.

*Lights fade down on STORY JACK. STORY JACK exits. CONNER BURTON, a nervous, overachieving freshman, enters, carrying a differential equations textbook, reading without looking up. CONNER bumps into BILLY and nearly drops her textbook.*

**CONNER**

Oh! Sorry. Moving in?

**BILLY**

Yeah! My name's Billy Rodgers!

*Billy extends his hand for a handshake. CONNER turns the page without looking up.*

**CONNER**

Billy? Conner Burton.

**BILLY**

You're tooling already?

**CONNER**

“Tooling”?

**BILLY**

Yeah! It's MIT-speak for “studying,” it's what everyone says!

**CONNER**

Whatever. I'm getting ready for the math placement diagnostic!

**BILLY**

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

**CONNER**

Well, it's not for a grade or anything, but I want my advisor to be impressed! I have to really impress him if I want to take five-point-one-two 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 Want to Be Hardk0re*

*(music flourish)*

I've got bigger plans,

*(music flourish)*

better plans.

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,  
FOREVER EARNING CHANCES TO BRAG!

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

**CONNER**

Nope neutral, 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!

**CONNER**

You're going to sing again, aren't you...

**BILLY**

I am!

*CONNER rolls her eyes and follows BILLY, still clutching her book.*

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!

*The FROSHSOMBLE enter. (STORY JACK, formerly our narrator, is now a member of the FROSHSEMBLE, though STORY JACK will occasionally pop out to narrate.) The FROSHSEMBLE buzz about excitedly. Many of them are carrying backpacks or pamphlets from lots of freshman-y activities. RYAN, an especially froshy freshman, steps out of the FROSHSEMBLE toward BILLY, infected by BILLY's enthusiasm.*

**RYAN**

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

**BILLY**

Or when it looked like a giant pumpkin?!

**RYAN**

WHEN THEY HUNG A LOUNGE BENEATH THAT ARCHWAY,  
UPSIDE-DOWN FOR ALL TO SEE!

**BILLY**

OR WHEN THE HARVARD / YALE BALLOON INFLATED,  
IT SHOWED THEIR INGENUITY!

**CONNER**

I guess some of that stuff was pretty cool.

**BILLY**

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

**RYAN**

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

**CONNER**

I don't know, it must be magic!

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

**BILLY and FROSHSEMBLE**

THEY FLY FROM ROOFTOP TO ROOFTOP  
AT NEAR THE SPEED OF LIGHT!  
NO WALL 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!

**BILLY**

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

*STORY JACK steps forward and pops into narration mode as the rest of the FROSHSEMBLE (less RYAN and CONNER) wave goodbye to BILLY and exit.*

**STORY JACK**

Though it may be difficult to find hackers, occasionally they come above ground. Our freshman happened upon one of these rare occurrences.

*STORY JACK exits. COROT and TESS enter. COROT strolls along as TESS rolls beside him on a pair of robotic rocket boots, which are covered with dials and multi-colored lights. TESS's face is masked by a helmet and pair of goggles she is wearing, making her look almost insect-like. BILLY, CONNER, and RYAN see TESS and COROT and listen from a distance.*

**COROT**

Tess, do you have time to go over the plans for the hack later today?

**TESS**

Sure! Oh! Corot, I'm thinking of using the old roof attachment design from freshmen year, but it's -- [too heavy to deploy quickly.]

**BILLY**

Excuse me, I couldn't help overhearing, but are you pulling...  
*(checks to make sure no one's looking, then drops to a whisper)*  
 ...a hack?

*COROT and TESS turn to face BILLY, CONNER, and RYAN.*

**TESS**

*(taking off her goggles and helmet and scrutinizing BILLY, CONNER, and RYAN)*  
 I don't think I've seen any of you before.

**BILLY**

I'm Billy. These are my friends, Ryan Putz and Conner Burton. We'd like to help you! I mean, if that's okay. We're really interested in this kind of stuff! Well?

**COROT**

*(giving TESS a knowing look)*  
 I don't know.

**TESS**

*(giving COROT a knowing look)*  
 We should test them.

**COROT**

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

**BILLY**

*(hesitantly)*

Sure. What do you want us to do?

*COROT suddenly becomes extremely presentational, over-enunciating and making exaggerated expressions. He is now in performance mode.*

**COROT**

Question one! Name a hack!

**BILLY**

That's easy. There was that police car on the dome.

**COROT**

Correct! You are sharper than I thought, good sir, I commend you.

*(pointing to RYAN)*

Question two. What was the first hack?

**RYAN**

I don't really --

**TESS**

*Whispered to RYAN:*

A Ford Model T.

**RYAN**

*To COROT:*

A Ford Model T!

**COROT**

Very good.

*(turning to CONNER)*

And when was it put up?

**CONNER**

What!? How am I supposed to --

**TESS**

*Whispered to CONNER:*

1925.

**CONNER**

*(with a sigh)*  
1925.

**COROT**

Correct! Impressive work. Now the final question! 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, Part 2*

**BILLY**

I CAN LEARN ALL THAT YOU CAN TEACH ME!

**RYAN**

DO THINGS NO ONE ELSE HAS DONE!

**CONNER**

RISE ABOVE THE STANDARD EXPECTATIONS!

**BILLY, RYAN, CONNER**

WE REALLY WANT TO JOIN YOUR HACK!

**TESS**

Aw, quit making them beg, Corot.

*To the freshmen with a friendly, conspiratorial whisper:*  
If he gets too bombastic on you, just punch him.

*TESS playfully punches COROT squarely in the arm.*

**COROT**

*(dropping out of performance mode)*

Hey, don't tell them to punch their fearless leader! And by the way --

*(turning to the freshmen and momentarily slipping into performance mode)*

-- you all passed. Welcome aboard!

**RYAN**

Cool! What can I help with? When are we putting up the hack? Can I --

**TESS**

Chill, we haven't even had our first official meeting yet. By the way I'm Tess.

**COROT**

And I'm Corot.

**BILLY**

When is the first meeting?

**COROT**

It's Tuesday at midnight!

**TESS**

Don't be early!

*TESS and COROT exit. BILLY, CONNER, and RYAN high five.*

**BILLY**

My first hack! Yes! I'm in!

*Hardk0re, part 3*

I'M REALLY GONNA BE HARDK0RE!

I'M GONNA BE HARDK0RE!

*Blackout.*

*Police Station*



## SCENE 1.2 -- Police Station

*Lights fade up on STORY JACK.*

### STORY JACK

And so our little freshman joined his first hack, and merrily returned to his dorm, his head filled with images of renegade banners, mysterious messages in skylights, and dreams of being the most hardk0re hacker of all time! Meanwhile, there was another group of people on campus. They wore all blue, had these funny octagonal hats, and held a radio in one hand and a doughnut in the other.

*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. OFFICER BARRY CLAW, an older CP, sits at a desk, reading a copy of The Tech. An empty box of "Dunkin' Donuts" sits nearby. OFFICER FREY PACHINO types furiously at her desk. 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

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

### CLAW

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

*OFFICER DEEDEE KALF, a sober-looking deadpan cop, enters. She is wearing a pair of dark glasses, which she will wear for the duration of the show.*

**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**

I think you might be mistaken.

**PACHINO**

None of your sass, Kalf!

**KALF**

It's in Killian Court. It's plastered all over the Tech.

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

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

**KALF**

I believe it went up this morning.

**CLAW**

But who could have done that?

**SPRINKLES***(still facing upstage)*

Those goddamn hackers...

***Sprinkles Theme****(swiveling around to face forward)*

That's who!

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

Those hackers, they think they're so clever - snubbing their noses at the law, parading about rooftops in the dead of night! I've had it up to here --

*(holding his hand up to the height of his head)*-- with those hackers and I've had it up to here --*(holding up his hand even higher)*

-- with their hacks!

**KALF**

Sir, they're just pranks.

**SPRINKLES**

"Just pranks," Kalf? "Just pranks"?? They are a direct insult to the very badges we wear - to the vows we took when we donned these uniforms those many years ago!

*SPRINKLES, PACHINO, KALF, and CLAW take off their hats and put them over their hearts.*

Those hackers are endangering the well-being of this school by disobeying the law to put up their hacks,

*(putting his hat back on his head)*but their crusade against justice will soon end, because 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*

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 HACKERS,  
 THEY THOUGHT WE NEVER COULD.  
 LET'S GET THOSE FUCKERS,  
 AND STAMP THEM OUT FOR GOOD.

**KALF**

I HAVE A FINE IDEA TO ACCOMPLISH ALL OUR GOALS,  
 THE ONLY THING TO DO IS TO INCREASE ALL OUR PATROLS.

**CLAW, PACHINO, and SPRINKLES**

PATROLS?

**KALF**

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 SORT OF TRAPS...

**KALF, PACHINO, and SPRINKLES**

TRAPS?

**CLAW**

TRAPS.

**PACHINO**

QUICK! GET A CAMPUS MAP!

**CLAW**

THEY'LL GET TO EVERY DOOR, BUT THEY'LL FIND ALARMS IN STORE,  
 WHILE ROOFTOP SENSORS FILL IN EVERY GAP.

**CLAW, PACHINO, KALF, and 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 HACKERS!  
 THEY THOUGHT WE NEVER COULD.  
 LET'S GET THOSE HACKERS,  
 AND STAMP THEM OUT FOR GOOD!

**SPRINKLES**

NO MORE CARS ON THE DOME,  
 OR COWS OR WORKING PHONES.  
 WITH SPRINKLES IN CHARGE, THEY  
 WILL MEET THEIR ULTIMATE END!

**CLAW, KALF, and PACHINO**

NO-O, DOME!  
 NO WORKING, WORKING PHONES!  
 THEIR ULTIMATE END!

**PACHINO**

THERE'S ONE LAST STEP TO GUARANTEE WE END THAT HORDE OF IMPS,  
 WE'LL BUILD A FLEET OF SELF-SUFFICIENT FIRE-THROWING BLIMPS!

**CLAW, KALF, and SPRINKLES**

BLIMPS?

**PACHINO**

BLIMPS!

**CLAW, KALF, and SPRINKLES**

WAIT, BLIMPS?!

**PACHINO**

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

**CLAW, KALF, PACHINO and 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 HACKERS,  
WE'LL PUT THEM WHERE WE SHOULD!

**SPRINKLES**

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

*Menacing Laughter. Blackout*

### SCENE 1.3 -- Secret Hacker Lair

*Lights fade up on STORY JACK.*

#### STORY JACK

Often at MIT, it is difficult to tell the difference between modern art installations, hacks, and construction work. Though on the surface, some of these may appear similar, hacks are unique for the ingenuity, thought, and effort that go into making them what they are.

*STORY JACK reintegrates with the FROSHSEMBLE. Lights come up on a meeting space. Many other members of the HACKSEMBLE are already present, and others enter as the scene progresses. COROT is sitting leisurely with a large, rolled up map in his lap. FARADAY and TESS are standing together scrutinizing a document. TENSOR is playing cats cradle with a bit of string and PISTON sitting nearby.*

#### FARADAY

*(carefully observing the document)*

Uh huh, uh huh, yeah, yeah, this looks like it shouldn't take me too long to solder.

#### TESS

Thanks, Faraday. Just don't get too hosed.

#### FARADAY

Whatever.

#### TENSOR

If I move my finger here... wow I never seen this knot before! Hey Piston, check it out!

#### PISTON

That's nice, Tensor.

#### TENSOR

My 18.906 professor is going to love this when I show it to him. I need to draw a picture of this!

*TENSOR reaches for a pencil to draw, but finds that his hands are tied up.*

Oh no...

*BILLY enters, looks around, and waves to COROT.*

**BILLY**

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

**COROT**

Yeah, good to see you!

*HUNTER, a judgemental-yet-motherly upperclassman, walks past BILLY, drinking milk from a half gallon container.*

**BILLY**

*To HUNTER:*

Hi, my name's Billy!

**HUNTER**

*(looking directly through BILLY)*

What are you??

**BILLY**

Billy? I want to learn how to be a hacker!

**HUNTER**

You're froshy as hell!

*HUNTER throws the milk into a nearby trashcan.*

**BILLY**

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

**COROT**

*To everyone:*

Let's get started.

**RYAN**

Hey Billy, over here!

*Excited chatter buzzes through the room. BILLY sits with RYAN and CONNER. COROT snaps into performance mode.*



**Target: the Dome**

*Awesome prayer-meeting chords play under COROT's speech.*

**COROT**

Good evening, fellow hackers!

*(musical flourish)*

I said: "Good evening, fellow hackers!"

*(musical flourish)*

*From here on, HACKSEMBLE, BILLY, and TESS ad lib enthused responses as COROT pauses for their replies. Ad libs: "You go, Corot!" "Glory Hackeylluyah!" "I hope that we get to use dexion!" "So hardk0re!"*

This is a thrilling time,

*(musical flourish)*

a time for everyone to hone new skills,

*(musical flourish)*

pushing our limits, setting new standards,

*(pause)*

doing something challenging!

*(pause)*

We won't just drop this hack down on the grass of Killian Court --

**HACKSEMBLE, BILLY, and TESS**

No way!

**COROT**

Our target --

*COROT unfurls the map and pins it to the wall. The map is a map of MIT campus. The map is covered with colorful arrows and lines, making it look almost like a football play-board. COROT grandly points to the dome on the map.*

**HACKSEMBLE, BILLY, and TESS**

The dome!

**COROT**

YES, THE DOME!  
 NOW LET'S BEGIN. LET'S THINK THIS THROUGH.  
 A HACK IS SO MUCH MORE THAN SOMETHING CLEVER ON A ROOF.  
 HACKS MUST BE SAFE, PREMEDITATED, DELIBERATED, CALCULATED.  
 TO MAKE THEM WORK, WE THINK BEFORE WE HACK.

*TESS hands out packets.*

**TESS**

I'VE GOT THE PLANS!

**HACKSEMBLE and BILLY**

BRAND NEW PLANS!

**TESS**

HERE, TAKE A LOOK!

**TESS**

WE'VE STARTED THE DESIGN,  
 AND IT'S AMBITIOUS BUT THOUGHT OUT.

**HACKSEMBLE and BILLY**  
 AHHH...

**HACKSEMBLE and BILLY**

THOUGHT OUT!

**COROT**

WE WANT THIS UP FOR HALLOWEEN -  
 NOW GRAB YOUR TOOLS AND YOUR CAFFEINE,  
 AND EVERYBODY MEET OUR BUILDING LEADS.

**HACKSEMBLE and BILLY**

MEET OUR BUILDING LEADS!

**TESS**

I'M HEADING UP THE DRAGON WING.

**HACKSEMBLE and BILLY**

OOO, DRAGON WING!

**FARADAY**

AND I'M IN CHARGE OF THE SCIENCE BOX.

**HACKSEMBLE (less FARADAY), BILLY, and TESS**

OOO, SCIENCE BOX!

**COROT**

WE STILL NEED A LEAD FOR THE SQUID NET,  
SOMEBODY WHO'S AN EXPERT WITH ROPE...

*ELECTRA and MAGS raise their hands.*

... and bondage doesn't count.

*ELECTRA and MAGS lower their hands.*

**TENSOR**

You've roped me in. I can lead. You know I'll knot let you down!

*The HACKSEMBLE groan. PISTON smacks TENSOR upside the head.*

**COROT**

*(shaking his head at the pun but smiling)*

Thank you, Tensor.

**TENSOR**

*(with a wink)*

You bet.

**COROT**

THIS IS YOUR CHANCE --

**HACKSEMBLE, BILLY, and TESS**

HERE'S OUR CHANCE!

**COROT**

-- FOR HANDS-ON LEARNING.

**HACKSEMBLE, BILLY, and TESS**

HANDS ON SKILLS!

**COROT**  
 NOW DON'T BE SHY,  
 LOOK TO YOUR LEADS!  
 THEY'RE HERE TO HELP YOU OUT!

**HACKSEMBLE, BILLY, and TESS**  
 AHHH...

**TESS**  
 JUST ASK US ANY QUESTIONS, AND WE'LL HELP YOU FIND THE ANSWERS,

**TESS, FARADAY, AND TENSOR**  
 'CAUSE HACKING IS AN AWESOME WAY TO LEARN!

**HACKSEMBLE (less FARADAY and TENSOR) and BILLY**  
 WE WANT TO LEARN!

**COROT**  
 OKAY WE'LL LEARN --

**HACKSEMBLE, BILLY, and TESS**  
 TIME TO LEARN!

**COROT**  
 -- HOW TO DEPLOY!

**HACKSEMBLE, BILLY, and TESS**  
 WE'LL DEPLOY!

**COROT**  
 IT'S AN ART OF TACTICS, ART OF SKILL,  
 AN ART OF METHODS, ART OF WILL!  
 IT IS AN ART OF --

**HACKSEMBLE, BILLY, and TESS**  
 AHHH...

*KEPLER, an extremely jaded upperclassman, enters. He is always a bit on edge and speaks with villainous enunciation. COROT stops in the middle of his sentence, falters out of performance mode, and the music stops.*

**KEPLER**  
*(sarcastically)*  
 Oh, I'm sorry. I must be interrupting something important.

*KEPLER stares at COROT, who meets KEPLER's gaze. KEPLER breaks eye contact to look around the room, smirking slightly.*

Please. Carry on. Don't mind me.

*KEPLER slinks out of the room.*

**RYAN**

Who was that?!

**TENSOR**

So, that's Kepler. He's sort of an angst source and a happiness sink. Basically, he's a dick.

**TESS**

Hey, let's not get off track! Who wants to help me build?

*HUNTER, PISTON, and several other members of the UPSEMBLE, who will later work on the Dragon Wing, raise their hands. BILLY hesitates and almost puts up his hand.*

**BILLY**

I want to help, but I don't know... I mean, I've never done this before...

**TESS**

NO NEED TO FRET, EVERYONE STARTS SOMEWHERE.  
ALL OF US HAVE SKILLS TO LEARN, SO NO NEED TO DESPAIR.

**COROT**

ALL YOU NEED TO DO IS TRY  
WHEN WE WORK TOGETHER, OUR HACK WILL FLY

**HACKSEMBLE, COROT, BILLY, and TESS**

TO OUR TARGET: THE DOME

**COROT**

OUR TARGET!

YEAH OUR  
TARGET!

**HACKSEMBLE, BILLY, and TESS**

NOW LET'S  
GO  
PULL

WE'RE READY,  
LET'S GO PULL THIS HACK!

THIS  
HACK!

LET'S GO PULL THIS HACK!

*COROT removes the map from the wall, and curls it up. He walks over to TESS as the HACKSEMBLE begin to filter out. Side conversations ensue as the HACKSEMBLE exit:*

**MAGS**

*To ELECTRA:*

I have two psets due tomorrow. I'm gonna have to bang these out before we start the hack.

**ELECTRA**

*(genuinely concerned)*

Bang your psets? Now I'm jealous...

**MAGS**

*(contemplatively)*

We could have a threesome if you want, but somehow I don't think that's practical.

**ELECTRA**

I guess you're right... we might get paper cuts.

**CONNER**

*To anyone who will listen:*

Can we miss builds if we have psets?

**PISTON**

No! Stupid! Wrong! You're on pass/no record!

**TENSOR**

Most important equation you learn freshman year:  $A = B = C = P$ .

**PISTON**

Punt them until later.

**CONNER**

Punt?

**PISTON**

You are a freshman.

**RYAN**

*To FARADAY:*

Hey Faraday, can I help with the Science Box? It has a really cool name!

**FARADAY**

Sure. I'm kind of hosed anyway. My friend, you'll be helping me solder and if my body tries to go to sleep, light me on fire.

*All of the HACKSEMBLE have exited by now.*

**COROT**

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

**BILLY**

It was really cool! So epic!

**HUNTER** (*offstage*)

Fraaaaaaaaaw-sheeeeeeee!

**BILLY**

Hey!

**COROT**

Don't worry about it. See you at the build!

**BILLY**

See ya!

*BILLY exits. COROT sits down, looking exhausted. TESS sits down next to COROT.*

**TESS**

Hey, what's up? You're usually pretty excited after these meetings.

**COROT**

It's Kepler. I had a feeling he might show up, but I was hoping we wouldn't have to deal with him.

**TESS**

I thought that might be it.

**COROT**

I really hope he stays clear of us.

*Blackout*



## SCENE 1.4 -- Construction Zone

### *Building*

*Lights come up on a busy-looking build space. COROT is bustling around. TESS is waiting for her team to arrive. The rest of the HACKSEMBLE begin to enter. FARADAY and RYAN work on the the Science Box. TENSOR, ELECTRA, and MAGS work on the Squid Net. HACKSEMBLE help the three groups. During the song, the HACKSEMBLE produce rhythms with tools. STORY JACK stands foremost, ready to narrate.*

### **STORY JACK**

By day, hackers may seem like ordinary MIT students, but at night, they transform into the creatures they truly are. They abandon their problem sets, sleep, and sanity to pour their souls into their real work.

*HUNTER, PISTON, CONNER, STORY JACK, and other HACKSEMBLE assemble before TESS, ready to work on the Dragon Wing.*

### **TESS**

All right, team Dragon Wing! Here are the specs for what we're building.

*(holding up a spec sheet)*

Everybody grab a partner and some 2x4's! If you don't have experience, find someone who does.

*Everyone divides up into freshman-upperclassman pairs. CONNER works with PISTON, and HUNTER works with STORY JACK. BILLY is left without a partner.*

Hmmm... looks like we've got odd numbers - that's fine, you'll just work with me. Billy... right?

### **BILLY**

Yup! And you're Tess! Right? Where do we start?

### **TESS**

Grab that drill, and I'll show you how this all works.

*BILLY picks up a drill, and brings it back to TESS. COROT approaches TESS. Lighting follows COROT.*

**COROT**

HEY HOW'S IT GOIN'?

**TESS**

STARTING ON THE STRUCTURE NOW. IT'S GONNA TAKE A WHILE.

*COROT moves to TENSOR who is laying out and tying ropes with ELECTRA and MAGS.*

**COROT**

HEY HOW'S IT GOIN'?

**TENSOR**

TYING UP THE MID-SUPPORTS AND MAPPING OUT THE FRAME.

*COROT moves to FARADAY and RYAN. Both are soldering. RYAN picks up and clumsily begins to use a pair of wire cutters.*

**COROT**

HEY HOW'S IT GOIN'?

**FARADAY**

HEAT THE IRON, MELT THE SOLDER, CAREFUL WITH THOSE WIRE CUTTERS!

*COROT stops to help FARADAY and RYAN. BILLY attempts to drill in a screw, but it just won't go in. He tries several times, each time making disappointed noises at the drill. Lighting shifts to BILLY and TESS.*

**BILLY**

Hey Tess, this screw just won't go in. What am I doing wrong?

**TESS**

You're probably just not pressing hard enough. I bet you're stripping the screw. Here, let me show you how to do it.

*TESS puts a new screw in place, and navigates the drill, still in BILLY's hand, to the screw. She presses on the drill to demonstrate the proper amount of pressure.*

You feel how hard you need to push? Now you try.

*BILLY pushes in the screw.*

**BILLY**

Thanks, Tess!

**TESS**

You're welcome.

MY FRIENDS ARE HERE AND ENERGIZED!

**BILLY**

I GET TO BUILD A HACK!

**TESS**

MORE PROGRESS IS MADE EACH TIME I COME BACK!

**TESS and BILLY**

THIS HACK WILL BE EXCELLENT! IT'S PURE AWESOMENESS!

**TESS**

I HAVE TRULY FOUND PARADISE.

**BILLY**

I'LL BE HARDK0RE, YES!

*Lighting follows COROT.*

**COROT**

All right, one week down. Let's see if we're on schedule.  
HEY HOW'S IT GOIN'?

**TESS**

MAIN SUPPORTS ARE ALMOST BUILT.

**HUNTER**

I THINK IT'S BROKEN...

**COROT**

HMMM...

**TESS**

WHEN WE GET MORE PIPES, IT SHOULD BE EASY TO GET IT -

**(add HACKSEMBLE GROUP 1)**

DONE!

**HACKSEMBLE GROUP 2**

FINISHED!

**HACKSEMBLE**

YEAH!

*BILLY, RYAN, and CONNER exit.*

**COROT**

HEY, HOW YOU DOIN'?

**TENSOR**

WAITING ON THE ROPE WE ORDERED.

**FARADAY**

SLEEP IS FOR THE LUCKY!

**ELECTRA**

*To MAGS:*

WE'LL HAVE TO STAY UP LATE TO FINISH.

**MAGS**

*To Electra:*

YEAH, MAYBE ALL NIGHT.

*Lighting shifts to TESS. BILLY, CONNER, and RYAN enter carrying a box full of pipes from a re-use pile.*

**RYAN**

Hey everybody, check out these parts Billy found on re-use!

**BILLY**

*To TESS:*

You said we needed more pipes, right?

**TESS**

This is awesome, this is exactly what we need!

**CONNER**

Good, because Billy punted 8.01 in order to find them. He even punted recitation for --

**BILLY**

Can you help me carry them over to that corner?

*BILLY, CONNER, and RYAN carry the pipes to the corner of the room.*

**TESS**

THESE EXTRA MATERIALS ARE JUST WHAT WE NEED.  
BILLY'S PICKING THINGS UP FAST AND TAKING A LEAD.  
I CAN'T HELP BUT CATCH HIS EYE, EVERY NOW AND THEN...

*BILLY and TESS make eye contact and are briefly illuminated by a pink spotlight.*

...I REALLY HOPE I GET TO WORK WITH HIM AGAIN.

*Lighting follows COROT.*

**COROT**

HEY, HOW'S IT GOIN'?

**TENSOR**

THE ROPE WE ORDERED FINALLY CAME!

**ELECTRA**

IT'S REALLY THICK!

**MAGS**

I LIKE THE COLOR!

**HUNTER**

STRUCTURE'S DONE NOW!

**RYAN**

HEAT THE IRON!

**TENSOR**  
START THE NETTING!

**RYAN**  
MELT THE SOLDER!

**PISTON**  
NO! IT'S CROOKED...

**MAGS**  
I HAVE ROPE BURN.

**CONNER**  
YES! IT'S EVEN!

**FARADAY**  
SLEEPY TIME NOW!

*FARADAY's head makes a soft "thuck" as he passes out on his table.*

**COROT**  
HEY, HOW YOU DOIN'?

**RYAN**  
FARADAY JUST CONKED OUT,  
SO I'M LOOKING FOR A LIGHTER.

**COROT**  
What?! Don't do that!

**RYAN**  
But he said --

**COROT**  
Yeah, I know, just help me get him to his room.

*COROT and RYAN exit with FARADAY. Lighting shifts to CONNER and PISTON, who are working on a frame. CONNER is holding a chemistry textbook, attempting to read.*

**PISTON**

To CONNER:

If you put down the five-twelve book, we can get this done faster.

*KEPLER enters the build space. He looks around as if he smells something terrible.*

**CONNER**

But we might have a test this week and --

**KEPLER**

Disgraceful. This looks like it was built by a third grader.

**PISTON**

Kepler. Out. Now.

**KEPLER**

You're not even using the proper tools. Pathetic.

**PISTON**

Leave.

**CONNER**

Hey! You're that guy from before, the one who...  
*(trailing off in fear)*

**KEPLER**

*(leering at CONNER)*

The one who what?

**CONNER**

*(stammering)*

I ... nevermind.

**KEPLER**

That's what I thought. You're wasting your time here being a talking clamp. Good luck graduating.

*KEPLER glares at everyone and everything and slinks off. ELECTRA and MAGS, who are in the process of tying each other up, turn to face CONNER.*

**ELECTRA**

Sorry about him.

**MAGS**

*(cheerfully)*

He's got lots of problems.

*COROT and FARADAY enter. Lighting follows COROT.*

**COROT**

*(checking his watch for the date)*

There are no problems here.

THREE MORE WEEKS TO GO,  
AND WE'RE AHEAD OF SCHEDULE.  
HEY, HOW'S IT GOIN'?

**CONNER**

I'VE NEVER WORKED THIS HARD BUT IT'S REWARDING!

**PISTON**

TOLD YOU.

**CONNER**

YEAH, I KNOW...

**COROT**

HEY, HOW'S IT GOIN'?

**FARADAY**

HOLD THIS! DOES IT BURN YOUR HAND!?

**RYAN**

IT FEELS OKAY.

**FARADAY**

I WIN!

**RYAN**

IT'S OOZING SOMETHING...



OH... **FARADAY**

NO... **TENSOR**

SHOULD I REDO IT? **HUNTER**

WATCH OUT! **CONNER**

OOPS... I LOST THE PART. **RYAN**

AGAIN? **FARADAY**

NO. DAMMIT. STUPID. BAD! **PISTON**

ONLY TWO MORE WEEKS TO GO?  
WE NEED TO PICK UP THE PACE! **COROT**

*Lighting shifts to BILLY and TESS.*

Woah! It's already 3am?! **BILLY**

Yeah, time flies. Don't let me hold you here if you have to go too. **TESS**

Nah, I only have half a pset left for the week, and besides, I'd rather be here with you. I mean, to build the hack. **BILLY**

Right. **TESS**  
(pause)

**BILLY**

Right.

*(pause)*

**TESS**

Let's take a look at the roof attachments. I'll go grab the plans.

*BILLY and TESS turn away from each other.*

**BILLY**

WAIT.

**TESS**

OH.

**BILLY**

WHAT'S THIS?

**TESS**

SUDDENLY, MY NEURONS WON'T CONNECT.

**BILLY**

BUT I KNOW --

**TESS**

COULD IT BE?

**BILLY and TESS**

WE ARE BOUND TO INTERSECT!

*(walking towards each other, as if in a dream, in pink light)*

YES! THIS IS OPTIMAL! I CHERISH THE THOUGHT!

*Pink light switches to normal lighting. BILLY and TESS stand in the normal light for a few seconds, still in their romantic poses from the pink light section.*

**BILLY**

Hey Tess, were we going to look at the plans?

**TESS**

Right!  
ALMOST FORGOT.

*Lighting shifts to COROT. SPRINKLES and KALF enter. SPRINKLES scours the room with his gaze.*

**SPRINKLES**

What's all this hammering and to-do all about?

**COROT**

*(performance mode)*

Oh hello, Officers! We're just working on a project! Isn't it great when an art class gets you to use such practical skills, like construction and electrical engineering?

**KALF**

Let's move on, sir, they're just working on some art project.

**SPRINKLES**

There's something fishy about this "art project" of yours.

**COROT**

*(as he jauntily walks SPRINKLES and KALF out of the build space)*

Oh, Sergeant, art has always been controversial. Let's go outside and I'll tell you all about American modern art in the 1970's. It required a lot of black scrap metal...

*Music slows and the HACKSEMBLE slowly, as if pulled by magic, exit, leaving BILLY and TESS alone, unsupervised. Lighting shifts to TESS and BILLY. BILLY begins to drill in a screw and then stops short. He glances up at TESS, then back at the screw, then back up at TESS. TESS notices BILLY out of the corner of her eye.*

**BILLY**

TESS,  
THIS SCREW IS NOT ... GOING IN.

**TESS**

HERE, LET ME SEE.

*TESS bends over to examine the screw, putting her hand on BILLY's shoulder to let herself down and not letting go as she examines the screw.*

I THINK THAT IT'S ... STRIPPED.

**BILLY**

I THINK I AGREE.

**TESS**

LET'S APPLY MORE ... PRESSURE HERE  
TO DRILL IN THIS SCREW!

*TESS switches the "stripped" screw for a new one.*

Maybe we should screw together.

*TESS places her hands on BILLY's, which are still on the drill. BILLY and TESS screw. Suddenly BILLY and TESS look up at each other and realize their faces are now at kissing distance.*

It's in.

**BILLY**

And it feels perfect.

*BILLY and TESS lean in towards each other as music begins to swell.*

**HUNTER** (offstage)

Cookies! Chocolate-chip-monster-gingersnap-cookies!

*HUNTER enters with a tray of cookies. The HACKSEMBLE enter and swarm the cookie tray. Ad libs: "Aw, yes!", "Mmmmm! Were these from scratch?", "These taste vegan. I think they're vegan. Whatever..." , "I'm feeling a little jittery."*

*To TESS and BILLY:*

Stop crushing on each other!

*To HACKSEMBLE:*

Hey, want some cookies?

*To TESS and BILLY:*

But seriously, cut that out and have some cookies!

**TESS**

Hunter, we're just building the --

**HUNTER**

Listen.

*(putting down the tray of cookies)*

You're totally crushing on each other and I'm not going to pretend that I don't see it.

*(grabbing some cookies and handing them to TESS and BILLY)*

Seriously, stop while you're ahead. Don't even think about breaking the November Rule.

*Upon hearing the words, "November Rule," HACKSEMBLE gasp and ad lib 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," HACKSEMBLE ad lib 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*

THOUGH "MENS ET MANUS" MAY BE OUR DECREE  
WHEN HEARD OUTSIDE THE SCHOOL,  
HERE IT'S

**HUNTER**

“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.

**HACKSEMBLE**

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

**HUNTER**

You see Billy, a freshman and an upperclassman shouldn't even think of dating until November 1st! There are consequences for such actions.

**BILLY**

Oh, come on. It's not like some nightmare-horror-maw creature will come and devour our bodies and feast on our entrails if we --

*HACKSEMBLE stare at BILLY.*

-- is it?

**HACKSEMBLE**

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

**HUNTER**

THERE'S A CURSE THAT HAND-HOLDING BRINGS.  
 THE NOVEMBAT,

**HACKSEMBLE**

THE NOVEMBAT!

**HUNTER**

WITH GIANT LEATHERY  
 WINGS,  
 COMES TO INCREASE YOUR P-SET BLUES  
 BY FILLING UP

**HACKSEMBLE**

GIANT LEATHERY WINGS!  
  
 AH!  
 ATHENA QUEUES!

THE PRINTER QUEUES.

THAT'S SURE TO END  
MOST AUTUMN FLINGS!

WILL END THEM!  
YOU'RE GONNA BE LATE!

**HACKSEMBLE**

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.

**HACKSEMBLE**

OH NO,  
  
THEY SAY,  
  
THEY'RE JUST GOOD FRIENDS!  
  
INTEND, INTEND!

**HACKSEMBLE**

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

**HUNTER**

IF YOU HUG AND LINGER TOO LONG,

**HACKSEMBLE**

TOO LONG, TOO LONG, TOO LONG, TOO LONG!

**HUNTER**

THE NOVEMBAT,

**HACKSEMBLE**

THE NOVEMBAT!

**HUNTER**

WITH PUTRID STINKING MAW,  
IT'S BREATH WILL CAUSE COMPLETE  
SEDATION, YOU'LL LOSE THE SKILL

**HACKSEMBLE**

IT HAS A MAW!

OF INTEGRATION.  
THAT COULD BE THE FINAL STRAW!

INTEGRATION!  
YOU SUCK AT MATH!

**HACKSEMBLE** (female)  
PA-RE-TE LE-GI NO-VEM-BRI!  
PA-RE-TE LE-GI NO-VEM-BRI!

**HACKSEMBLE** (male)  
IT'S GONNA KILL YOU!  
WON'T LET IT, WILL YOU?!

**BILLY AND TESS**  
YOU'VE GOT,  
  
IT WRONG,  
  
WE'LL BE FINE,  
WE HAVE NEVER  
CROSSED THAT LINE.

**HACKSEMBLE**  
  
OH NO!  
  
AH, AH!  
  
YOU CANNOT HIDE!  
  
IT'S GONNA EAT YOUR INSIDES!

**HACKSEMBLE**  
PARETE LEGI NOVEMBRI! PARETE LEGI NOVEMBRI! PARETE LEGI NOVEMBRI!  
PARETE LEGI NOVEMBRI! PARETE LEGI NOVEMBRI!

**HUNTER**  
IF YOU FUCK 'CAUSE YOU COULDN'T RESIST,

**HACKSEMBLE**  
FUCK, FUCK, FUCK, FUCK, FUCK, FUCK, FUCK!

**HUNTER**  
THE NOVEMBAT,

**HACKSEMBLE**  
THE NOVEMBAT

**HUNTER**  
WITH KNIFE-LIKE MURDEROUS GRIP,  
WILL WHISK YOU TO THE GREEN  
BUILDING ROOF,  
AND DROP YOU WITH ONE KICK OF

**HACKSEMBLE**  
KNIFE-LIKE GRIP WILL KILL YOU!  
  
IT'S REALLY REALLY TALL!



HIS HOOF.  
YOU'LL BE DESTROYED BY THIS

IT HAS AT LEAST ONE HOOF!

**(add HACKSEMBLE (female))**  
LUSTFUL SLIP!

LUSTFUL, LUSTFUL SLIP!

**HACKSEMBLE**

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**

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 HACKSEMBLE.*

**BILLY**

*(taking a bite of the cookie)*  
That was a lot to digest.

*COROT enters.*

**COROT**

Sorry for leaving you guys. How's it goin'?

**TESS**

*(with a nervous chuckle, relieved that COROT didn't hear HUNTER's warning)*  
It's... going...

*(regaining her composure)*  
Oh! Billy had an idea about the design of the roof attachments.

**COROT**

What's up?

**BILLY**

So you know the part here?  
*(pointing to a section of the diagram, scribbling)*  
It's sturdy, but that's a lot of material. What if we tried something like...this!

**COROT**

No, then we'd have to worry about --

**BILLY**

I know, but check this out --  
*(scribbling more on the paper)*  
if you just take this length here --

**COROT**

Here?

**BILLY**

No, here. We need to know the length between these spots on the roof.

**COROT**

But then what do you do with this?

**BILLY**

Easy, fold it under here, like this!

**COROT**

Huh, you know, that could work. Good job!

**BILLY**

Thanks!

*KEPLER enters carrying his laptop, sits down in the shadows, and opens it, illuminating his face from below.*

**COROT**

Hey! You should try designing a hack from scratch!

**BILLY**

I'd love to!

**COROT**

Once we're done with this hack, I can show you everything you need to know. Maybe we could even lead a hack together!

**BILLY**

That would be awesome!

**TESS**

We should take more measurements tonight if we want to implement the changes in time for Halloween.

**COROT**

Sounds great - and we can double check our other measurements while we're there.  
*(while exiting)*  
I'll try to find everyone. I'll be back in a few.

*COROT exits.*

**TESS**

I'm gonna grab a sweatshirt.  
*(pausing to think)*  
Do you need anything?

*BILLY and TESS say "I want to kiss you" with their eyes.*

**BILLY**

Oh. Could I borrow a flashlight?

**TESS**

Sure!

**BILLY**

Thanks, Tess!  
*TESS exits. BILLY turns to look at the design plans again.*

**KEPLER**

Pitiful.

**BILLY**

Excuse me?

**KEPLER**

*(not looking up from his laptop)*  
Careful the company you keep. You think Corot's so great. You'll learn.

**BILLY**

Look, I know who you are. I'm not going to listen to anything you say.

**KEPLER**

Glad to know. I hope you have a good time tonight. Stupid freshman.

**BILLY**

I guess everyone's right, I should stay away from you.

*TESS enters. wearing a sweatshirt and carrying a flashlight.*

**TESS**

Good thing I had an extra. Here.

### *Tempting the Novembat*

*TESS hands BILLY the flashlight. Their hands touch and they make eye contact. Before the moment can become romantic, the sound of a demonic bat is heard overhead and the lights dim, signifying the presence of the NOVEMBAT. BILLY and TESS pause, look up in fear, and then immediately recoil. The presence of the NOVEMBAT dissipates. BILLY and TESS take a moment to look around and make sure that their lives are no longer in danger. The moment is broken by the entrance of the HACKSEMBLE and COROT. The HACKSEMBLE ad lib: "I can't believe we're going to the dome," "best view on campus," "It's gonna be cold, I didn't wear undergarments today..."*

**CONNER**

I hope this won't take too long, I still have three problems left!

**COROT**

Don't worry, it's just a quick trip to take some measurements.

**TESS**

*To COROT, under her breath:*

Pretty big party for a few measurements.

**COROT**

*To TESS:*

Nah, it'll be a good learning experience.

*To HACKSEMBLE, momentarily slipping into performance mode:*

Electra, Mags, head out. Tensor, ready? Everyone, remember to stay together. Don't forget, exercise common sense.

**KEPLER**

*(not looking up from his laptop)*

Wouldn't it be nice if he took his own advice.

*HACKSEMBLE turn to look at KEPLER. Most look confused; COROT raises an eyebrow but looks unsurprised.*

**COROT**

Tess, can you take the lead? I'll catch up.

*TESS nods. All but COROT and KEPLER exit.*

### *Bring Down the Hack*

**COROT**

Kepler, we need to talk. You need to stop --

**KEPLER**

I don't think there's anything to discuss.

**COROT**

EVER SINCE SOPHOMORE YEAR, I'VE PUT UP WITH YOUR SNEERING,  
YOUR LURKING, YOUR SMIRKING - EVERY SINGLE DAY!  
YOU SNARK AT THE TEAM, AND INSULT OUR ENGINEERING.  
MY PATIENCE IS GONE, THIS BEHAVIOR'S NOT OKAY.

**KEPLER**

AW, WHAT'S NOT OKAY? TELLING YOU THE FACTS?  
I CAN'T BELIEVE YOU WON'T ADMIT

**COROT**

KEPLER!  
STOP RIGHT NOW!

**KEPLER**

YOU LEAD HACKS FOR YOUR BENEFIT!

**KEPLER**

THE FROSH THINK YOU'RE A HERO,  
IT'S SUCH A BIG MISTAKE!  
QUIT YOUR PHONY ACT,  
YOU'RE JUST A WORTHLESS FAKE!

**COROT and KEPLER**

YOU THINK I'LL BELIEVE YOU?!

**COROT**

I WON'T BELIEVE THE THINGS YOU  
SAY  
AT ALL!

**KEPLER**

WHAT A PHONY, WHAT A FAKE,  
YOU'RE NOTHING!

I'M SURE YOU BELIEVE THAT  
YOU'RE SO DAMN COOL.

YOU WANT THEM TO THINK THAT  
YOU'RE SO HARDK0RE!

**KEPLER**

YOU WANT THEM ALL TO LOOK YOUR WAY! BUT

**COROT and KEPLER**

IT'S NOT ALL ABOUT YOU!

**COROT**

BECAUSE KEPLER, YOU'RE WRONG!

**KEPLER**

YEAH RIGHT! YOU'RE DRAGGING FROSH ALONG,

**COROT**

I'M GIVING THEM A CHANCE  
TO LEARN!

**KEPLER**

BECAUSE YOU WANT AN ARMY, ALL  
MARCHING TO YOUR SONG!

**KEPLER**

THAT'S WHY YOU LEAD THIS HORDE, BECAUSE YOU WANT TO BE ADORED.  
MASTER OVER ALL, YOU'RE THE "MIGHTY OVERLORD."

**COROT**

THAT'S NOT IT, KEPLER, THAT'S WHY YOU WOULD WANT TO LEAD,  
 ONLY YOU WANT THE PRAISE, ONLY YOU HAVE THAT NEED.  
 THIS HACK IS NOT FOR ME! IT'S FOR THEM ALL TO SEE  
 THAT HACKING'S A TRADITION UNIQUE TO MIT.

**COROT and KEPLER**

YOU THINK I'LL BELIEVE YOU?!

**KEPLER**

NOBODY CARES ABOUT YOUR GODDAMN HACK!

**COROT and KEPLER**

A REALITY CHECK IS

**COROT**

OVERDUE!

I'M NOT GONNA SACRIFICE THIS HACK!

**KEPLER**

WAY OVERDUE!

HA! THEN YOU'LL SEE!

**COROT and KEPLER**

'CAUSE IT'S NOT ALL ABOUT YOU!

**KEPLER**

I'm telling you! No one cares!

**COROT**

Kepler, please. I just want everyone to have a good time and --

**KEPLER**

You only want what's best for you. These freshmen will learn who you are.

**COROT**

That's it. I give up, you're not even listening. I've told you for the last time that this is unacceptable.

**COROT**

YOU NEED TO LEAVE. NO MORE INTIMIDATION.  
 STOP SCARING THE TEAM, AND PUSHING US OFF TRACK.  
 I'M DONE WITH YOU, YOU'RE JUST AN AGGRAVATION.  
 PLEASE GO AWAY, AND STOP BRINGING DOWN THE HACK.

**SHADOW  
 JACKS**

(offstage)  
 OOO....

**SHADOW JACKS**

AHHH...

*COROT exits.*

**KEPLER**

Bring down the hack? Bring down the hack! Oh, I'll bring down the hack!

**SHADOW JACKS** (offstage)

*(repeated under KEPLER)*

BRING DOWN THE HACK.

**KEPLER**

THAT'S ALL YOU CARE ABOUT THESE DAYS, HOW HUMBLE!  
THIS STUPID HACK AND ALL THE GLORY IN STORE,  
BUT IF YOU GOT CAUGHT YOUR PLANS WOULD START TO CRUMBLE.  
AND NO ONE WOULD FOLLOW YOU ANYMORE.

*(taking out his cell phone, dialing a number, and affecting a frightened persona  
as he speaks into the receiver)*

Hello, Officer? Hi, I was just looking out the window and I saw some people on the roof  
of Building 10. I think you should send someone over right away.

*(pause)*

No, thank you, Officer.

*(hanging up and dropping his act)*

Your services are greatly appreciated.

*Blackout.*



## 1.5 -- Killian Court

*Lights come up on STORY JACK.*

### STORY JACK

Real hackers never get caught. No matter what watchful eyes are about, they always find ways of becoming undetectable, and what better way to become undetectable --

*Lights fade up on Killian Court where ELECTRA and MAGS are strolling casually along the grass.*

### *Distraction Tango*

-- than to distract the detectors?

*Lights fade down on STORY JACK. STORY JACK runs up to the roof to join the others. BILLY, TESS, COROT, and the HACKSEMBLE (less ELECTRA and MAGS) are stationed on the roof. They are obscured by shadows but may be seen as choreography requires. The sound of a police radio is heard from offstage. ELECTRA gives MAGS a knowing look. MAGS flashes seven fingers at ELECTRA.*

### ELECTRA

Definitely.

### PACHINO (Offstage)

You of all people to pick up the phone! You can't even remember what building number? Is this even close?

### CLAW (Offstage)

I think so,

*CLAW and PACHINO enter.*

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

*ELECTRA holds up her arm to her mouth, suddenly taking a spy-like stance. She takes this pose whenever she speaks into her communication device.*

**ELECTRA**

*(into communication device)*

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.

**ELECTRA and MAGS**

WE WILL HOLD UP THE LAW.

*ELECTRA and MAGS continue to watch the CLAW and PACHINO from a distance.*

**PACHINO**

KEEP A LOOK OUT CLAW. I THOUGHT I HEARD A NOISE.  
MUST BE SOME OF THOSE HACKERS!

**CLAW**

YEAH! ONE OF THOSE "DEPLOYS."

**PACHINO**

AS THEY SNEAK THROUGH THE NIGHT,  
THEY SHOULD KNOW WE DELIGHT,

**PACHINO and CLAW**

IN UPHOLDING THE LAW!

*ELECTRA and MAGS snap into distraction mode. They make exaggerated gestures and often speak loudly enough that people an unreasonable distance away can hear them. ELECTRA and MAGS move closer to the PACHINO and CLAW.*

**MAGS**

MY DARLING, MY ANGEL!  
YOUR EYES HOW THEY SHINE!  
YOU MUST PRESS YOUR BODY TO MINE!

**ELECTRA**

SUCH AN INTIMATE FEELING,  
TONIGHT I KNOW WE --

**ELECTRA and MAGS***(surreptitiously to the audience)*

WILL HOLD UP THE LAW!

*PACHINO and CLAW approach the ELECTRA and MAGS.***PACHINO**

OH, WHAT HAVE WE HERE?  
 THEY'RE ACTING ODD, NO DOUBT.  
 WHY ARE THEY IN KILLIAN?

*ELECTRA and MAGS make out.***CLAW**

... THEY'RE MAKING OUT.

**PACHINO**

THOUGH THEY'LL TRY TO DISTRACT,  
 WE'LL SEE THROUGH THEIR ACT!

**CLAW and PACHINO**

WE'RE UPHOLDING THE LAW!

**CLAW**

Um... Excuse me?

**ELECTRA***(opening eyes sensually)*

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

**CLAW**

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

**MAGS***(still on top of ELECTRA)*

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.

**MAGS**

*To ELECTRA:*

Your breasts are amazing!

*ELECTRA continues to make out with MAGS. A loud noise comes from the roof.*

**PACHINO**

You hear that?

*ELECTRA 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! I'm calling for back-up! ... And stop saying "intimate!"

*ELECTRA and MAGS snap out of distraction mode. MAGS holds up three fingers. ELECTRA nods.*

**ELECTRA**

*(into communication device)*

FLUX TO MUSE, THERE'S A PROBLEM,  
THEY'RE ONTO US NOW.  
WE'LL KEEP THEM BUSY SOMEHOW.  
YOU SHOULD PROBABLY HEAD DOWN  
NOW,  
AND TRY TO STAY LOW.

**PACHINO**

*(speaking into her radio)*

Officer Frey Pachino to Sergeant  
Sprinkles. Officer Frey Pachino to  
Sergeant Sprinkles. Sprinkles , come in!  
Sprinkles, come in!

**ELECTRA and MAGS**

WE WILL HOLD UP THE LAW.

**PACHINO**

*(speaking into her radio)*  
 SPRINKLES, IT'S PACHINO!  
 IT'S URGENT I SWEAR.

**CLAW**

THEY'RE SURE TO BE HACKERS,  
 'CAUSE THEY HAVE FUNNY HAIR!

**PACHINO**

*To CLAW:*  
 THOUGH THEY'LL TRY TO SUCCEED,  
 IN THE END THEY'LL CONCEDE.

**CLAW and PACHINO**

WE'RE UPHOLDING THE --

*ELECTRA and MAGS snap into distraction mode.*

**MAGS**

LONG BAND RADIO WAVES!  
 THE WAVES ARE THE DATA  
 WE NEED FOR OUR CLASS,  
 AND NOW, WE'LL NEVER PASS!

**ELECTRA**

PLEASE STOP YOUR TRANSMISSIONS,  
 STAY FIFTY SMOOTS AWAY.

**ELECTRA and MAGS**

GO UPHOLD THE LAW  
 SOMEWHERE ELSE!

**CLAW**

HOLD ON, PACHINO,  
 THEY'RE DOING SCIENCE HERE.  
 WE SHOULD BE RESPECTFUL --

**PACHINO**

AND LET THEM DISAPPEAR?  
NO, THOSE HACKERS ARE SLICK,  
IT MUST BE A TRICK,  
SO I'M TELLING YOU --

**CLAW**

YES, YOU'RE RIGHT,

**CLAW AND PACHINO**

WE'LL KEEP  
UPHOLDING THE LAW!

*SPRINKLES enters in a huff. KALF follows.*

**SPRINKLES**

Where are they? Goddammit! I was drafting the plans for the blimp!

**PACHINO**

We got a tip and we headed here immediately, and when we got here we heard these noises coming -- [from the dome!]

**MAGS**

*(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.  
*(musical flourish)*

**MAGS**

And I need four people to drive me.  
*(musical flourish)*  
I have a phobia.

*Loud banging and fumbling is heard from the roof and CLAW, KALF, PACHINO, and SPRINKLES look up. The hackers are out of sight.*

**SPRINKLES**

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

*MAGS flashes a five at ELECTRA and runs over to CLAW, KALF, PACHINO, and SPRINKLES.*

**ELECTRA**

*(into communication device, temporarily out of distraction mode)*

FLUX TO MUSE. PUNT!  
 MUSE, ARE YOU THERE? CAN YOU HEAR ME?  
 YOU'VE GOT TO GET DOWN!  
 ARGH! WHY AREN'T YOU ANSWERING?  
 GET OFF THE ROOF!  
 WE'LL TRY TO HOLD UP THE --

*SPRINKLES attempts to step forward, but is caught by MAGS, who tangos with him to turn him around.*

**SPRINKLES**

*(leading)*

DON'T PLAY GAMES WITH ME!

**MAGS**

*(leading)*

GAMES? PLEASE SERGEANT WE --

**SPRINKLES**

*(leading)*

YOU CAN'T MAKE ME DELAY!  
 YOU KNOW!

**MAGS**

*(leading)*

I KNOW?

*PACHINO steps forward, but is caught by ELECTRA, who tangos with her to turn her around.*

**ELECTRA**

*(leading)*  
PLEASE! THERE'S NOTHING TO --

**PACHINO**

*(leading)*  
HA! JUST LET ME THROUGH!

**ELECTRA**

*(leading)*  
WHAT? AM I IN YOUR WAY?

*ELECTRA and MAGS tango with SPRINKLES and PACHINO, respectively.*

**SPRINKLES**

*(leading)*  
YOU'RE A TRICKY ONE!

**MAGS**

*(leading)*  
NAH, JUST HAVIN' FUN

**SPRINKLES**

*(leading)*  
YOU'RE HIDING SOMETHING.

**KALF**

SIR, YOU'RE ACTING PARANOID AGAIN.

**PACHINO**

*(as ELECTRA turns PACHINO around)*  
HEY STOP THAT!

**ELECTRA**

WHAT, I --

**SPRINKLES**

*(as MAGS leads SPRINKLES closer to CLAW. MAGS grabs CLAW and forces him into a tango with SPRINKLES.)*  
I KNOW THERE'S SOMETHING --



**CLAW**

HEY THERE, SERGEANT!

**SPRINKLES**

*(throwing CLAW off. ELECTRA quickly takes CLAW's place.)*

STOP THAT, CLAW!

**PACHINO**

*(now tangoing with CLAW)*

YEAH! THIS IS URGENT!

**KALF**

THIS IS SILLY, SIR.

**MAGS**

*(leaning on KALF's shoulder)*

YEAH, THERE'S NOTHING TO SEE!

**PACHINO**

*(throwing CLAW off)*

Claw!

**MAGS**

*(running to tango with PACHINO)*

Hey! How's it going, Officer?

**PACHINO**

*(struggling with MAGS)*

You're not going to trick me! Even if you don't have backpacks!

**CLAW**

*(taking KALF's hand and beginning to tango with her)*

Hey, Officer Kalf, would you like to join me?

*CLAW begins singing his rendition of the orchestration.*

**KALF**

*(as CLAW dips her)*

Officer Claw. I don't think this is proper.

**SPRINKLES**

You're not going to win!

**ELECTRA**

Oh, Sergeant, it's not about winning, it's about dancing!

**PACHINO**

Claw! Shut up!

**SPRINKLES**

Goddammit, I won't give up, so easily! Just... need... to... find... those... goddamn... hackers... where's... my... flash... light?

*SPRINKLES breaks out of the tango and grabs his flashlight from his belt. SPRINKLES spotlights the hackers on the roof, who are now completely visible, and the rest of the stage goes dark. The hackers look fucked. STORY JACK runs frantically down from the roof and is illuminated just enough to be seen.*

**STORY JACK**

Hey everyone! Just a moment, we're experiencing some minor difficulties, not to worry --

**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 AUDIENCE**

-- on your way to Baker house!

*STORY JACK runs offstage.*

**ELECTRA and MAGS**

WE WILL  
HOLD UP THE  
LAW, WE WILL HOLD  
UP, WE ARE

**HACKSEMBLE, BILLY,  
COROT, and TESS**

HOLD  
UP  
THE

**CLAW, KALF, PACHINO, and  
SPRINKLES**

WE'RE UPHOLDING THE  
LAW,  
WE'RE UP

**ALL**

HOLDING UP,  
HOLDING UP,  
THE LAW!

*Blackout.*



## SCENE 2.0 -- Police Station, Part Two

### *Sprinkles' Admonition*

*Lights fade up on the police station. Papers have been shifted and on the wall are clearly depicted blueprints for fire-throwing blimps. The HACKSEMBLE, less ELECTRA and MAGS, trudge into the police station, led by SPRINKLES and followed by PACHINO. STORY JACK sneaks out of the lineup to narrate. Lights shift to focus on STORY JACK.*

### STORY JACK

Hi, everybody!

*(pauses for audience response, repeat "Hi, everybody!" and ad libs as necessary)*

Sorry for our brief interruption. When we left off, our hackers had just been snatched by the clutches of the law and taken to the campus police station. The hackers had no choice but to cooperate and see what punishment was in store for them!

*Lights fade down on STORY JACK and come up on the police station. STORY JACK reintegrates with the FROSHSEMBLE.*

### SPRINKLES

Up against the wall!

### PACHINO

*(leering at the hackers)*

You'd better cooperate!

### SPRINKLES

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

*CLAW and KALF enter.*

### CLAW

*(salutes SPRINKLES)*

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

### SPRINKLES

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

**KALF**

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

**SPRINKLES**

Goddammit! But we... we... nevermind!

*(regaining his composure)*

Now then ...

YOU ASSUMED YOU WERE CLEVER, YOU'D NEVER BE CAUGHT.  
YOU WERE COCKY, HOWEVER, I'M WINNING! YOU'RE NOT!  
YES, YOU SURE HAD YOUR FUN, BUT I'M DONE ACTING NICE!  
WHEN YOU TANGO WITH JUSTICE, YOU MUST PAY THE PRICE!

**CLAW, KALF, and PACHINO**

WHEN YOU TANGO WITH JUSTICE, YOU MUST PAY THE PRICE!

**SPRINKLES**

YOU'VE SCOFFED AT THE LAW AND YOU'VE SNEERED IN ITS FACE,  
YOU'VE TRESPASSED, YOU OUGHT TO BE PUT IN YOUR PLACE!  
DID YOU THINK YOU'D SNEAK BY? DID YOU THINK YOU'D SLIP THROUGH?  
DID YOU ALL REALLY HAVE NOTHING BETTER TO DO?

**CLAW, KALF, and PACHINO**

DID YOU ALL REALLY HAVE NOTHING BETTER TO DO?

**SPRINKLES**

YET, WHATEVER HAS CAUSED YOUR UNLAWFUL DEBUT,  
WHEN YOU BREAK THE LAW,

**CLAW, KALF, PACHINO, and SPRINKLES**

THE LAW WILL BREAK YOU!

**CLAW, KALF, PACHINO**

*(under SPRINKLES)*

AHHH...

**SPRINKLES**

How shall we punish you?  
WE CAN MAKE YOU RAKE LEAVES OR PICK UP CIGARETTES,  
BUT EVEN THOSE TASKS AREN'T AS BAD AS IT GETS!

WE CAN SEND YOU TO BATHROOMS AND MAKE YOU SCRUB FLOORS,  
 CATCH RATS WITH YOUR HANDS AS JUST ONE OF YOUR CHORES!  
 WE CAN STRIKE YOU FROM CLASSES AND HIKE YOUR TUITION,  
 CANCEL YOUR RESEARCH WITHOUT YOUR PERMISSION,  
 AND IF THAT'S NOT ENOUGH TO SHOW YOU WHAT THE PRICE IS,  
 WE'LL IMPLANT YOU WITH PERMANENT TRACKING DEVICES,  
 BESMIRCH ALL YOUR RECORDS, AND IF WE'RE COMPELLED,  
 WE CAN TAKE IT MUCH FURTHER, TAKE IT MUCH FURTHER.  
 Yes... that's it! The worst punishment of all...  
 YOU'LL ALL BE EXP -- [ELLED!]

*The office phone rings. SPRINKLES pauses and looks at the phone. He hesitates, unsure what to do.*

### KALF

This is a phone, sir.

*The phone continues to ring. KALF waits for SPRINKLES to pick up the phone. After a moment, KALF picks up the phone and speaks into the receiver.*

Hello?

*(pause)*

All right, we'll be over immediately.

*To SPRINKLES, hanging up the phone:*

Sergeant, a gas bypass in one of the chemistry labs failed and there was an explosion.

### SPRINKLES

We have to take care of this... This is all hands on deck.

*To the HACKSEMBLE:*

I don't have time to deal with you right now but next time, you won't be so lucky! Now get the hell out of here, goddammit!

*To the OFFICERS:*

Come on, move! We have a school to save!

*CLAW, KALF, PACHINO, and SPRINKLES exit. The HACKSEMBLE, BILLY, COROT, and TESS stand still for a moment, in shock from their luck. Blackout.*

***Escape! / Well Shit, That was Close***

**SCENE 2.1 -- Destruction Zone**

*Lights come up on STORY JACK.*

**STORY JACK**

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

*Lights shift to the build space. ELECTRA and MAGS are waiting for their friends to return. The rest of the HACKSEMBLE, BILLY, COROT, and TESS return, amidst a flurry of angry muttering.*

**PISTON**

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

**STORY JACK**

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

*STORY JACK reintegrates with the FROSHSEMBLE.*

**PISTON**

I mean, what the hell?

**COROT**

Calm down Piston! This stuff happens all the time!

**PISTON**

No! It. Doesn't.

*KEPLER enters, peering around the corner of a wall and lurking in the shadows. He smiles.*

*Wank, Wank, Wank*

**KEPLER**

Ah, here they come. They've dealt with the CP's but let's see how they face each other. FIRST THEY BEGIN WITH:



**HACKSEMBLE, BILLY, and TESS**

WHY WERE WE CAUGHT?  
 WE SHOULD NEVER HAVE BEEN CAUGHT!  
 WHAT WENT WRONG, WHO'S TO BLAME?  
 SOMEONE IS AT FAULT!

**KEPLER**

THEN COROT SAYS:

**COROT**

CALM DOWN, GUYS, CALM DOWN!  
 THESE THINGS HAPPEN NOTHING WE CAN DO,  
 WE WILL TRY AGAIN.

**KEPLER**

THEN THEY ANSWER:

**HACKSEMBLE, BILLY, and TESS**

STOP THAT!  
 IT'S SOMEBODY'S FAULT,  
 THERE'S NO WAY THIS IS NOT!

**PISTON**

I KNOW WHO IT WAS.  
 I KNOW IT MUST BE YOU!  
*(pointing at ELECTRA and MAGS)*

**KEPLER**

AND THEN IT'S TIME FOR THEM TO DEFEND:

**MAGS**

*(pointing at TENSOR)*  
 HEY, WE TOLD TENSOR THREE TIMES!

**ELECTRA**

*To TENSOR:*  
 SO HOW DID YOU NOT HEAR?

**MAGS**

WE WERE WARNING YOU

**ELECTRA and MAGS**

COPS WERE ON THEIR WAY!

**MAGS**

SO WHY WEREN'T YOU PUNTING?

**HACKSEMBLE (less ELECTRA, MAGS, and TENSOR), BILLY, and TESS**  
THEY TOLD YOU COPS WERE COMING. CLEARLY IT'S YOUR FAULT!

**(add ELECTRA and MAGS)**

WHY WEREN'T YOU LISTENING?

**KEPLER**

THEN THEY'LL THROW MORE BLAME AROUND:

**TENSOR**

HEY! I WAS DOING  
MY JOB I NEVER HEARD YOUR WARNINGS!

**PISTON**

IT'S ALL YOUR FAULT,  
CP'S CAUGHT US HACKING!

**HACKSEMBLE GROUP 1**  
YEAH RIGHT!

**TENSOR**

IF YOU WERE LOOKING FOR SOMEONE TO  
BLAME, TRY PISTON, SHE'S REALLY LOUD,  
SHE GOT US CAUGHT!

**HACKSEMBLE GROUP 2**  
YES IT IS!

**COROT**

CALM DOWN, GUYS! CALM DOWN!  
NO USE YELLING OVER STUPID THINGS!  
LET'S JUST TALK THIS THROUGH!

**KEPLER**

EVERYONE WILL JUST KEEP WANKING:

*The HACKSEMBLE, BILLY, and TESS burst into angry ad libs: "Hey don't look here --", "Shut up!" "I never want to work with you again!" "I never want to work on another hack again!" "You should do your damn job!", "It's not her fault, she was trying!" "Quit getting so defensive!"*

TIME FOR THE FINALE,  
AND COROT'S LAST CHANCE  
TO SHOW OFF ALL HIS POWER,  
ISSUING COMMANDS!

**PISTON**

I'm done with you and this hack!

*PISTON exists as COROT watches silently.*

**KEPLER**

WHAT THE HECK, COROT,  
YOU USED TO BE SO PROUD!  
WHAT HAPPENED TO YOUR SHOW?  
MANIPULATE THE CROWD!

**ELECTRA**

Find someone else next time.

**MAGS**

We're done with this!

*ELECTRA and MAGS exit. COROT also watches them silently. The rest of HACKSEMBLE begin to filter out.*

**KEPLER**

WHY'D YOU LET THAT HAPPEN?  
DON'T YOU WANT ATTENTION?  
WHY ARE YOU DETACHED FROM ALL OF THIS CONTENTION?  
WHY DIDN'T YOU DO  
ANYTHING AT ALL, YOU LET IT ALL OCCUR -  
OR MAYBE YOU'RE NOT REALLY  
WHAT I THOUGHT YOU WERE...

I DIDN'T MEAN TO BREAK HIM DOWN,  
ONLY MEANT TO...

*The rest of the HACKSEMBLE exit.*

I SWEAR I DIDN'T KNOW THIS WOULD BE SO PERSONAL A BLOW...

I didn't mean for this to happen.

*KEPLER steps into the light. COROT sees KEPLER and COROT's face darkens.*

**COROT**

*(tired, exasperated)*  
What do you want now?

**KEPLER**

Corot. I called you in.

**COROT**

What?

**KEPLER**

It was me. I called you in.

**COROT**

Kepler. Why did you do that?

*KEPLER tries to respond, then just exits.*

**BILLY**

So he was the reason we were caught! Maybe if we tell everyone, they'll --

**COROT**

*(exhausted)*  
No, Billy.

**BILLY**

But you can't let him win!

**TESS**

Billy, I think you should leave.

But the hack --

**BILLY**

**COROT**

*(exploding)*

The hack is over! Go away!

*BILLY looks to COROT, then to TESS, but is met with stern faces.*

Just go away, frosh!

**TESS**

*(coldly)*

Billy, just leave.

*BILLY hesitates and then exits. Fade to black.*

**SCENE 2.2 -- Back in the Day**

*Lights come up on KEPLER sitting on the ground, near tears, nervously rubbing his forehead. BILLY enters the same space as KEPLER but stops short when he sees KEPLER. KEPLER realizes he's not alone and wheels around to stare at BILLY.*

**BILLY**

You.

*BILLY and KEPLER stare each other down.*

*(suddenly fiery)*

You called us in! It's your fault all this happened! It's your fault that --

**KEPLER**

It always has to be about blaming someone, doesn't it? Yeah, I called the CP's I told them where you were, I told them the fastest route to find you, I led them straight to you. Doesn't it feel good now that you have someone to blame?

*(pause)*

And you need something to feel good about right now. You do. You've lost your hack. You've lost your leader. Corot's abandoned the hack, and he's abandoned you.

**BILLY**

You don't know anything about Corot! He would never abandon anything!

**KEPLER**

But he did. I know he did. He's Corot, after all.

**BILLY**

How do you know anything about Corot?

*Back in the Day*

*Lights fade up on COROT and TESS, still in the build space.*

**COROT**

Why did this happen?

*Lights fade down on TESS and COROT.*

**BILLY**

*(losing confidence)*

How could you know anything about Corot?

*Lights fade up on COROT and TESS.*

**TESS**

When people get mad, they do stupid things.

**COROT**

It wasn't just them. Right before we went up to the roof... I talked to Kepler.

**BILLY**

*(insistent)*

How do you know Corot? Well?

**KEPLER**

He's my friend!

*(pause)*

Or at least he used to be.

**COROT and KEPLER**

We were best friends once --

**KEPLER**

-- back when he wasn't so self important.

**COROT**

-- back when stuff was simple...

**KEPLER**

We used to go hacking together all the time.

*The lighting shifts to flashback mode. COROT and KEPLER crawl out of an interstitial space and brush the dust off themselves.*

**COROT**

That tomb was awesome.

**KEPLER**

And we were the first ones there!

**COROT**

Hey, Kepler. What do you think it'll be like to be a hardk0re hacker?

**KEPLER**

We'll know how to do everything!

*Lights illuminate the dome.*

Like put a hack up there on the dome!

*(pointing at the dome)*

**COROT**

*(laughing)*

Dude, want to lead our first dome hack together?

*COROT and KEPLER bro-clasp.*

**COROT and KEPLER**

Hell yes!

*Lights shift out of flashback mode.*

**COROT**

We pulled some great hacks freshman year.

**KEPLER**

We never put anything up on the dome, but Corot and I did stuff everywhere else! Eventually we met Tess and she joined our adventures. With Tess on our side, we were an unstoppable trio!

**COROT**

Man, those were good times.

*Lights shift to flashback mode.*



**KEPLER**

Corot! Tess! I figured out an awesome way to deploy the hack we talked about last night!

**COROT**

I knew I shouldn't have told him it was impossible.

**TESS**

I guess nothing's impossible.

*To KEPLER:*

Is this what you were doodling in recitation?

**KEPLER**

*(whipping a piece of paper out of his pocket)*

Yeah, check it out! It requires cunning, stealth, and, of course, exactly three people.

*KEPLER holds out the paper and COROT and TESS gather around in a semi-huddle.*

**TESS**

Oh, nice! If we're coming from above, then I can modify the base to make it stronger!

**KEPLER**

We might even be able to get this hack up before Corot thinks of an idea for the next one.

**COROT**

Actually, I was out walking when I noticed --

**KEPLER**

Save it for next week, Corot.

**TESS**

Yeah, I'm stoked to get this one up!

**COROT**

*(in performance mode)*

And when the hack appears, the crowds will see the masterpiece and wonder to themselves, “Ah, how did such a grand -- [work come to be?]”

*TESS playfully punches COROT in the shoulder and she and KEPLER laugh good-naturedly.*

Ow!

**KEPLER**

And the best part is, no one will ever know it was us.

*Lights fade back to KEPLER and BILLY and TESS and COROT in separate spaces.*

**COROT**

We made a good team.

**KEPLER**

Then the summer after our freshmen year I took an internship in California --

**COROT**

And then he went off to that internship...

**KEPLER**

-- a really lame one too. I wound up just being another code monkey when all I really wanted was to be back on campus with Tess and Corot, going exploring and building hacks together as a trio again! When I finally got back to campus, there was a beautiful hack on the great dome. It was as if the Institute itself were welcoming me home.

*Lights change to flashback mode.*

**COROT and TESS**

Kepler!

**TESS**

*TESS gives KEPLER a hug.*  
You're finally back!

**COROT**

*COROT and KEPLER bro clasp.*  
Tell us about your adventures!

**KEPLER**

Later, I have something to show you first. There's something awesome on the dome!

**COROT**

*(smiling)*  
You're talking about the hack? I led it. Do you like it?

*Lights and music emphasize KEPLER's shattered state. Lights move out of flashback mode.*

But when he got back, he started acting weird.

**KEPLER**

He led a dome hack without me, but worse, he hadn't even told me he was doing it. Not one email.

**COROT**

He stopped wanting to do stuff, spent less time with us...

**KEPLER**

Hacking was more important to Corot than I was, so if he even remembered to invite me to come along I'd just say --

**COROT and KEPLER**

-- "I'm busy tooling!"

**COROT**

That's what Kepler kept saying. He's spent a whole year being too busy for his friends!

**TESS**

I wonder what happened? I can't help thinking we really missed something.

**COROT**

*(with a frustrated sigh)*  
Damn it Tess! Why can't Kepler just come talk to us?

**KEPLER**

*To BILLY:*  
Why can't Corot learn to listen?

**COROT**

*To TESS:*  
He's a pretentious jerk begging the world for attention.

**KEPLER**

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

**COROT**

Sometimes I just wish he would --

**KEPLER**

Why doesn't he just --

**COROT and KEPLER**

think!

*Lights fade down on TESS and COROT.*

**KEPLER**

After a while he stopped inviting me to do anything with him. It's been this way for a whole year. And earlier tonight, he told me to stay away from the hack all together. You're just a freshman. You're probably still happy and think that life is good or something stupid like that.

**BILLY**

Sorry that I'm not more depressed.

**KEPLER**

Don't be.

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

Are those the plans for the hack?  
*(observing the papers)*

I'd know this roof attachment mechanism anywhere. Corot, Tess, and I designed this for the last hack we did together. It was a good design for freshmen to whip up, but I still remember it was heavy as hell. I guess they've finally figured out how to fix that...

*(reluctant admiration creeps into KEPLER's voice)*

and rather elegantly too...

**BILLY**

Actually, I made the modifications.

**KEPLER**

You did? That's pretty impressive.

*(getting up)*

Hey. I want to show you something.

*BILLY hesitates.*

It'd be unethical of me to go alone.

**BILLY**

You want to go hacking with me?

*(getting up)*

Where are we going?

**KEPLER**

You'll see.

*BILLY follows KEPLER. Blackout.*

*A Tomb*

### 2.3 -- A Tomb

*A faint hum, reminiscent of a machine room is heard. BILLY and KEPLER enter a beautiful and eerie section of interstitial space, only illuminated by their own flashlights or headlamps. Along a tall wall are two sign-ins and a grate leading to the night sky is behind them. Lights fade up as the scene continues.*

**BILLY**

What is this place?

**KEPLER**

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

**BILLY**

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

**KEPLER**

*(indicating the sign-ins)*

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

*(laughing softly)*

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

*KEPLER looks around the room. BILLY watches KEPLER.*

**BILLY**

Wow, back in the day you guys were so hardk0re!

*There's More To Life Than Tooling*

You've done so much epic stuff!

**KEPLER**

THAT'S NOT WHAT HARDK0RE MEANS,  
IT MEANS, "I WAS DUMB, BUT I SURVIVED."  
I'M SICK OF YOUR MANTRA,  
STUPID, FROSHY KIDS,  
YOU ALL WANT TO BE HARDK0RE.  
YOU JUST WANT TO BE HARDK0RE.

*(sighs)*

Don't you see?

THERE IS MORE TO MIT  
 THAN EARNING YOUR DEGREE.  
 YOU COULD HIDE AWAY ALL DAY WITH DIFF E.Q.,  
 BUT YOU'LL FIND THAT IN THE END,  
 WORKING WITH A FRIEND  
 IS THE FORMULA FOR LOVING WHAT YOU DO,

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

**BILLY**

I think I see where you're going.  
 IF YOU START TO FEEL BURNT OUT,  
 YOU SHOULD PUNT, WITHOUT A DOUBT,  
 BUT ANGSTING ALL ALONE WON'T HELP AT ALL.  
 'CAUSE WHEN YOU'RE IN DISTRESS,  
 YOU CAN DECOMPRESS  
 BY SPENDING TIME WITH PEOPLE ON YOUR HALL.

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

**KEPLER**

THERE IS MORE TO PULLING HACKS --

**BILLY**

-- THAN STORIES FROM THE JACKS!

**KEPLER**

Yeah!

**KEPLER and BILLY**

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

**KEPLER**

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

**BILLY**

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

**BILLY and KEPLER**

IN OUR TIME HERE AT THIS SCHOOL,  
WE'LL HACK AND PUNT AND TOOL.  
EVEN WHEN YOU'VE TURNED YOUR RAT AND JOURNEYED ON,  
THEN LOOKING BACK YOU'LL SEE,  
YOU'LL FIND YOUR HEART WILL BE  
WITH THE PEOPLE WHO STAYED UP WITH YOU TIL DAWN.

*The sun begins to rise through the grate.*

**BILLY**

THERE IS MORE TO LIFE THAN HACKING,

**KEPLER**

YEAH, THERE'S MORE TO LIFE THAN PUNTING,

**BILLY and KEPLER**

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

**KEPLER**

Hey, you should sign in.

**BILLY**

Whoa, really? With you and Corot?

**KEPLER**

Yeah, a sign-in doesn't mean we own the place. Tombs are for everyone to explore.

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



**BILLY**

I haven't picked a sign-in yet.

**KEPLER**

*(after a moment, gently)*

How about a dragon wing?

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

**BILLY**

A part of a hack I'll never finish. Too bad it's almost Halloween.

**KEPLER**

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

**BILLY**

You're right! We could totally finish this - you could come help too! Then you and Corot

--

**KEPLER**

*(suddenly returning to his sullen self)*

I have to go lab. Go build your hack. I'll be fine.

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

THERE IS MORE TO LIFE...

*KEPLER quietly hums the rest of the phrase as the lights fade on the tomb.*

*Kepler's Theme*

## 2.4 -- Reconstruction Zone

*BILLY enters to find RYAN and CONNER glumly tooling with each other. The other members of the HACKSEMBLE are sitting, isolated, in sad, angsty corners. BILLY taps CONNER and RYAN on their shoulders.*

**RYAN**

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

**BILLY**

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

**CONNER**

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

**RYAN**

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

**BILLY**

No! I don't even know if they want to finish working on the hack, but I do. And I want you to be there with me! Come on!

*BILLY starts to exit.*

**RYAN**

Okay, okay! Hey, wait for us! Come on, Conner, let's give the pset a break.

**CONNER**

Oh, all right.

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

Okay ... so what should we do first?

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

**BILLY**

Come on, we've got the plans, we can do this!

### *Rebuilding*

*BILLY, RYAN, and CONNER set to work.*

HEY, HOW'S IT GOIN'?

**RYAN**

I THINK THIS FITS, BUT THEN AGAIN - OH NEVER MIND...

*RYAN puts down what he's doing and picks up another set of tools and continues working.*

**BILLY**

HEY, HOW'S IT GOIN'?

**CONNER**

GUESS IT'S WORKING, BUT I ALSO DON'T KNOW WHAT I'M DOING...

**BILLY**

Keep working then...

*HUNTER enters carrying a tray of cookies.*

**HUNTER**

What are you froshbags doing around here. Didn't the hack end?

**BILLY**

For Corot, maybe, but we want to keep doing this.

**HUNTER**

What, so you think you frosh can just come in here and do all this even though you've never done it before?

**BILLY**

Yes we do! We're going to keep working on it because we three are a team!

**HUNTER**

Fuck that! We four are a team. Here, move over, Conner, let me hold that for you. Also, eat a goddamn cookie, you need your strength!

*HUNTER, CONNER, and RYAN keep working, with slightly more confidence than before. ELECTRA and MAGS enter.*

**ELECTRA**

HEY!

**MAGS**

WHAT YA DOIN'?

**BILLY**

FINISHING THIS HACK UP, DO YOU WANT TO HELP?

**ELECTRA**

WHY NOT?

**MAGS**

ALL RIGHT.

**RYAN**

Here, help me!

*FARADAY enters.*

**BILLY**

HEY, WHERE YA OFF TO?

**FARADAY**

SLEEP OR SOMETHING, DIDN'T THIS THING END, YOU NEED SOME HELP?

*FARADAY, HUNTER, ELECTRA, MAGS, CONNER, and RYAN continue to work, with more confidence than before. As they work, some of the HACKSEMBLE slowly filter in and start helping, and others are dragged in by friends. MAGS and ELECTRA drag TESS back in. TESS and BILLY make eye contact briefly. A*

*pink light illuminates them which soon fades to a depressing blue. They turn away to keep working.*

**BILLY**

HEY, HOW'S IT GOIN'?

**HUNTER**

DOIN' WELL.

**FARADAY**

HEY, WANNA HELP?

**PISTON**

OKAY.

**RYAN**

I THINK I'VE GOT THIS!

**BILLY**

HEY, LOOKIN' GOOD!

**CONNER**

THANKS!

**BILLY**

HEY, HOW'S IT GOIN'?

HEY, HOW YA DOIN'?

HEY, KEEP IT UP, NOW.

HEY, AWESOME WORK THERE!

HEY --

*COROT enters. Everyone pauses their work as COROT surveys the area.*

**COROT**

I'd like to help you... I mean, if that would be okay...

*The HACKSEMBLE look to BILLY.*

**BILLY**

I don't see why not.

*COROT and BILLY shake hands.*

**COROT**

Billy, I'm sorry I gave up on the hack. I let down the team, but you didn't. Thank you.

**BILLY**

No problem. And, hey, by the way --

*(dropping to a whisper)*

-- would you mind leading again? This is really tiring, and I have no idea what I'm doing.

**COROT**

*(saluting BILLY with a genuine smile)*

As you wish, captain.

**BILLY**

Hey everybody, our fearless leader is back!

*The HACKSEMBLE cheer as underscore finishes. Blackout.*

*Corot's Return*

## 2.5 -- Police Station, Part Three

*Lights come up on STORY JACK.*

### STORY JACK

Well, now, isn't that sweet. They're all building together, back to being friends again. How cute. Everyone was perfectly happy. Well, almost everyone...

*Lights fade down on STORY JACK and come up on the police station. SPRINKLES is pacing up and down the room. CLAW is reading The Tech. PACHINO is sitting at a filing cabinet, filing papers. KALF watches SPRINKLES pacing.*

### KALF

Sir, you've been pacing for one hour and 19 minutes. You should really sit down.

### SPRINKLES

Sit? How can I sit, Kalf? How can I sit?? It's been days since we caught those hackers, and not a sign of them.

### KALF

Perhaps they've decided not to do it, sir.

### SPRINKLES

Dammit, Kalf, I know they're plotting... I can smell it in the air...  
*(begins sniffing)*

### KALF

Sir?

### SPRINKLES

If we hadn't needed to take care of that goddamn explosion, we would have had them all expelled!

### CLAW

*(turning from his newspaper)*

Aw, Sergeant, don't get too depressed. Think of all those lives we saved. Or at least of all of those pieces of glassware. There sure was an awful lot of glassware.

**SPRINKLES**

That's not the point! We let those hackers get away!

**CLAW**

And all those tit-ration tubes, is that what they're called?

**PACHINO**

Sergeant, if I had had my way, we wouldn't have let them go, we would have locked them up in this office!

**SPRINKLES**

And left them here with all of our important files? That's such a stupid idea!

**PACHINO**

Sorry, sir, I just thought that maybe...

**CLAW**

Come to think of it, Sergeant, I think it's our job to go take care of safety and stuff like that. I mean, it sure was nice to catch those hackers but stopping that explosion made me feel all tingly inside and --

**SPRINKLES**

Don't you two have somewhere to be right now?

*CLAW and PACHINO both look at the clock on the wall, at each other, then back at SPRINKLES.*

**CLAW**

Yes.

**SPRINKLES**

Then what are you waiting for! Go! Out! Now!

*CLAW and PACHINO put down their respective papers and rush out the door. Blackout.*



**SCENE 2.6 -- Deconstruction Zone**

*Lights come up on the build space. BILLY and TESS are building separate pieces, working nearby each other. BILLY and TESS sneak glances at each other until eventually, they catch each others' eyes.*

**BILLY**

Hey Tess.

**TESS**

Hey Billy.

*(pause)*

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

**BILLY**

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

*(pause)*

**TESS**

I'm sorry if we hurt you.

**BILLY**

It's all right.

*(pause)*

Hey, Tess. I've been thinking a lot lately about hacking, and friends, and maybe now we should just be... just friends. Is that okay?

*(holding out his hand and hesitantly moving closer to TESS)*

Friends?

**TESS**

Friends.

*BILLY and TESS shake hands once, and recoil almost immediately.*

**BILLY**

See, we don't need to worry about "that rule" anymore.

**TESS**

Rule? Rule?? Please! We're past all that!

***Platonic Friends Again*****BILLY**

Right!  
THERE'S NO NEED TO BE FRIGHTENED,  
WE'RE PLATONIC AS CAN BE.

**TESS**

YESSIREE!  
PEOPLE SHOULD BE ENLIGHTENED  
WITH THE DATA POINTS REGARDING YOU AND ME...

**BILLY**

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

**TESS**

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

**BILLY**

OR CUDDLED...

**TESS**

OR EMBRACED...

**BILLY**

OR SQUEEZED...

**TESS**

OR KISSED...

**BILLY**

...AND EVEN IF WE KISSED THAT WOULD BE OKAY...

**TESS**

WE'D BE TWO PLATONIC FRIENDS  
WHO KISS  
IN A TOTALLY PLATONIC WAY!

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

**BILLY**

*(excitedly)*

I didn't hear or see anything! Did you?

**TESS**

*(excitedly)*

Nope!

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

**BILLY**

ANY DAY!  
SO LONG AS THE SEAT YOU ACCOUNT FOR  
IS A COUPLE ROWS AWAY!

**TESS**

BECAUSE WE'RE FRIENDS.

**BILLY**

AND THAT'S OKAY!

**TESS**

WE'RE MORE LIKE BROTHERS THAN LOVERS.

**BILLY**

RIGHT!  
JUST LIKE ABEL AND CAIN!

**TESS**

EXCEPT NEITHER OF US COMMITS FRATRICIDE!

**BILLY**

I could never kill you!  
 BECAUSE I SEE IN YOU SOMEONE I'LL NEVER FORGET,  
 SOMEONE TO PICK ME UP WHEN I'M DOWN ON MY LUCK!

**TESS**

YES, I SEE IN YOU SOMEONE SPECIAL TO ME,  
 SOMEONE I JUST LONG TO F --  
*(taking a step too close to BILLY)*

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

-- someone I just long to stand very far away from while talking about sports or the weather!

**BILLY**

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

**TESS**

Sometimes partly cloudy.

**BILLY**

And sometimes the clouds are so soft.

**TESS**

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

**BILLY**

The clouds?

**TESS**

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

**BILLY**

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

**TESS**

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

**BILLY**

I've heard that some couples can't stand to be apart. When they are, they close their eyes and imagine each other!

**TESS**

We have a healthier relationship!  
WHEN I CLOSE MY EYES, I SEE NOTHING,  
JUST NOTHING, NOTHING AT ALL.  
NOT YOU AND I HOLDING HANDS...

**BILLY**

OR SNUGGLING BENEATH A BLANKET...

**TESS**

WITH NO CLOTHES ON.

**BILLY**

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

**TESS**

Yes, let's!

*TESS and BILLY close their eyes, and smile. After a long pause, they both open their eyes and smile at each other.*

**BILLY**

IT'S GOOD TO KNOW IT,

**TESS**

WE'VE GOT SO MUCH TO SHOW IT,

**BILLY and TESS**

WE'RE PLATONIC FRIENDS AGAIN!

**HUNTER** (offstage)

I hope you stupid fuckers aren't making out! Come on, it's almost time to deploy!

**BILLY**

Right! Come on, Tess! Let's deploy. Like friends.

*BILLY and TESS exit. Blackout.*

**SCENE 2.7 -- Nightworks*****Nightworks***

*Lights come up on STORY JACK.*

**STORY JACK**

No living being has ever witnessed a hacker deploy. Those who think they have are mistaken and those who actually might have are probably dead. Only hackers truly know how they get their works of art to the final location...

*The lighting shifts to the HACKSEMBLE, BILLY, TESS, and COROT who are all dressed in sketchy, black, spy-like garb: goggles, trench coats, apertures, utility belts, the works. STORY JACK reintegrates with the FROSHSEMBLE. CONNER, TENSOR, ELECTRA, FARADAY, and HUNTER begin checking their communication devices.*

**ELECTRA**

*(into communication device)*

This is Flux, check?

**TENSOR**

*(into communication device)*

Gotchya, this is Muse, check.

**FARADAY**

*(into communication device)*

This is Cage, check?

**HUNTER**

*(into communication device)*

Hear you loud and clear, this is Momma, check?

*To CONNER:*

Now you go Pre-Med!

**CONNER**

*(into communication device)*

This is Pre-med, check?

**TENSOR**

*(into communication device)*

I think we are ready to go!

**COROT**

*To the HACKSEMBLE, in performance mode:*

Tonight is the night. We've gone through a lot to get this hack to the final stretch, and I know that tonight, we'll show the Institute once more what we hackers can do! Now let's move out! Team surveillance, take the lead! Electra, Mags, careful with the Squid Net.

**ELECTRA and MAGS**

Got it!

*ELECTRA and MAGS exit carrying Squid Net. CONNER, and HUNTER exit ahead of FARADAY, who yawns and lags behind.*

**COROT**

Hey Cage, are you good to go?

**FARADAY**

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

*(shouting and holding up a jolt can as he exits the stage)*

Caffeine works wonders!

**COROT**

All right. Everyone, let's move.

*The remaining HACKSEMBLE follow COROT. TENSOR is slightly ahead of the group, checking corners and intersections.*

**TENSOR**

*(into communication device)*

Momma this is Muse, coming to the first zone. How does your area look? Over.

*HUNTER appears, lit in a remote edge of the stage.*



**HUNTER**

*(into communication device)*

This is Momma, phys-plant is cleaning a flooded bathroom on floor 1 and more plant is waxing on floor 2 on those Zamboni things.

**TENSOR**

*(into communication device)*

What about floor 3?

**HUNTER**

*(into communication device)*

Clear. Momma says, come here! Over.

**TENSOR**

*(jesting up with his finger)*

Moving in the z-hat direction.

*The HACKSEMBLE follow COROT up a level and HUNTER exits to move to her new location. CONNER appears, lit clinging to the side of the wall and peering through a set of thermal binoculars.*

**CONNER**

*(into communication device)*

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

*TENSOR gives a signal for COROT to stop. The HACKSEMBLE and COROT press their bodies against the wall to avoid being seen. TENSOR watches the grad student (offstage) pass around a corner and nods to COROT.*

**TENSOR**

*(into communication device)*

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

**CONNER**

*(into communication device)*

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

*FARADAY appears, lit in a remote section of the lower level, near a wall.*

**FARADAY**

*(into communication device)*

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

*FARADAY takes a sip of Jolt and then plugs a cord protruding from his arm into the wall. He punches buttons on his computer wrist arm band. Cameras make a power-down noise.*

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

*(flipping down an eye visor)*

I'll keep an eye on the perimeter.

*TENSOR nods to COROT.*

**COROT**

Come on.

**PISTON**

*(pressing one finger lightly on a trap door)*

Applying 0.19 Newtons of force. Always calculate. Brute force is the last resort of the incompetent.

*HACKSEMBLE follow COROT through a trap door. When they emerge on the other side, COROT holds up his hand for everyone to halt. He reaches in his pocket and throws powder across the room revealing lines of lasers.*

**COROT**

Just as I thought.

**RYAN**

Lasers must be permeating into the secret chamber from the physics lab!

*The HACKSEMBLE navigate their way through the laser field.*

**TENSOR**

*(into communication device)*

Informational. We have emerged from the secret chamber with only minor photon damage. We're resuming our path to building 10.

**CONNER**

*(into communication device)*

This is Pre-med. My indicator light is blinking! My power is low! Over!

*ELECTRA and MAGS enter, flying in a two-person flying device and wearing aviation gear and carrying the Squid Net.*

**ELECTRA**

Not to worry! All tech men carry batteries!

**MAGS**

*(opening up a trench coat to reveal an array of batteries)*

And many tech women.

*ELECTRA and MAGS fly away to deliver the batteries (offstage).*

**ELECTRA (offstage)**

*(into communication device)*

Ready, ground crew?

**CONNER**

*(into communication device)*

Ground crew ready!

**ELECTRA (offstage)**

*(into communication device)*

Dropping to ground crew now!

*A pair of batteries descends, slowly on a miniature parachute, down to CONNER, who receives the batteries and loads them into power suit, stowing the parachute in a pocket and issuing a thumbs up to the heavens. CONNER watches (above, offstage) as ELECTRA and MAGS land on the roof above. The HACKSEMBLE emerge onto the roof through a trap door on the top of the dome. ELECTRA and MAGS join the HACKSEMBLE on the roof, stowing away their flying device.*

**ELECTRA**

Informational, this is Flux, we've landed on the roof with the Squid Net.

**COROT**

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

**TESS**

*(sniffing the air)*

It's ... it's the MIT weather machine! It's malfunctioning!

**TENSOR**

*(into communication device)*

We need someone to recalibrate the MIT weather machine. I think we're going to experience a fit of bad weather!

**HUNTER**

*(into communication device, entering from another remote section of the stage)*

Momma's got your back! I'll do it!

*HUNTER sprints to the weather machine control panel as a strong, screeching wind begins to blow across the roof, nearly knocking the HACKSEMBLE down. HUNTER reaches the weather machine control panel, expertly presses buttons and pulls levers, and after a moment, the wind stops.*

*(into communication device)*

This is Momma, the weather machine is all set.

**TENSOR**

Should be clear sailing from here.

**RYAN**

*(looking up)*

Hey look! There's a giant killer meteor headed straight for us! If we use our laser arm cannons, we could destroy it before it touches down!

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

**PISTON**

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

*(gets out a cell phone and dials F-IXIT)*

Hello, F-IXIT? I happened to notice a large killer meteor headed for Earth.

*(pause)*

Yes.

*(pause)*

Yes.

*(to RYAN and others)*

They'll be on it right away.

*(hangs up phone)*

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

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

*Lights come up on the lower level where FARADAY is stationed, yawning.*

**FARADAY**

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

*(twitching)*

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

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

Oh... Empty.

*(yawning)*

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

*(face-desking into his control spy surveillance monitors)*

**TENSOR**

*(into communication device)*

Cage, this is Muse. How is the perimeter?

**FARADAY**

*(drowsily, into communication device)*

Yup, all clear.

*To himself:*

... I should set an alarm ...

*FARADAY falls asleep. CLAW and PACHINO enter.*

**CLAW**

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

**TENSOR**

*To COROT, giving a nod:*  
We have an all clear!

**COROT**

*(spoken with the lights still on the CP's)*  
Okay, let's begin the set up.

**CLAW**

In fact, sometimes I think the administration is trying to stamp out --

*FARADAY's communication device makes a beeping noise.*

**PACHINO**

Hey! What was that?  
*(kneeling down to a now drooling FARADAY and listening)*

**CLAW**

Is ... is it radioactive??

**TENSOR**

*(into communication device)*  
Informational. Starting setup on the dome.

*CONNER begins climbing up the wall onto the roof to join the HACKSEMBLE on the roof.*

**PACHINO**

There are people on the dome! It must be those hackers! I'm radio-ing Sprinkles.  
*(whips out her radio and begins her transmission)*  
Officer Frey Pachino to Sergeant Sprinkles. Officer Frey Pachino to Sergeant Sprinkles!

*SPRINKLES appears lit in a remote location.*

**SPRINKLES**

*(over radio)*  
Sergeant Sprinkles here. What is it Pachino?

**PACHINO**

*(over radio)*

We found a hacker and his friends are on the roof!

**CLAW**

Don't forget to tell him to alert the hazardous materials division! Look at all those blinkily lights.

**PACHINO**

*(ignoring Claw, over radio)*

We'll meet you immediately!

**SPRINKLES**

*(over radio)*

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

*Lights go down on SPRINKLES. SPRINKLES exits.*

**PACHINO**

Let's take him as evidence!

*PACHINO attempts to pick up FARADAY, failing several times, and eventually hoisting him over her shoulder or dragging him along. Lights shift to KEPLER, who is tooling on his laptop.*

**KEPLER**

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

*KEPLER gets up and bumps into PACHINO who is carrying or dragging FARADAY.*

Sorry, Officer.

**PACHINO**

What are you doing up so late?

**KEPLER**

*(in shock upon noticing FARADAY)*

I'm an MIT student.

*(pause)*

I was just getting –

*FARADAY's communication device makes a beeping noise interrupting KEPLER. KEPLER, CLAW, and PACHINO all fixate on FARADAY's communication device.*

**HUNTER**

*(into communication device as she joins the HACKSEMBLE on the roof)*

This is Momma, just made it from the green building to the dome. Sorry I took so long, the zip-line was jammed.

**PACHINO**

Just getting a what?

**CLAW**

Do you need a ride home?

**KEPLER**

*(desperately looking for an escape)*

Uh... no... just getting... to a vending machine! I want a Pop-tart!

*(exiting quickly)*

**CLAW**

Maybe they should make dining mandatory.

**PACHINO**

Never mind him, we're on the brink of catching those hackers red-handed! Come on!

*CLAW and PACHINO exit with FARADAY. KEPLER reappears.*

**KEPLER**

No! I need to warn them!

*KEPLER begins his journey to the roof, exhibiting his mad, I33t skillz. STORY JACK steps forefront, ready to narrate.*



### **STORY JACK**

With CP's in quick pursuit, the hacker undertook his perilous journey to the dome, fending his way through jungles of pipes, mazes of vents, ninja-ing his way across ledges and edges with the grace of a frickin' tiger! Nearly invisible, he travelled through long forgotten passageways, knowing that he, alone, could bear the message that would save those up on the roof!

*Lights fade down on STORY JACK. STORY JACK reintegrates with the FROSHSEMBLE.*

**SCENE 2.8 -- The Great Dome by Night**

*KEPLER bursts onto the roof, where the HACKSEMBLE are now working to set up the hack.*

**KEPLER**

Corot!

*(weaving through the HACKSEMBLE, looking for COROT)*

***Hackers on the Roof***

COROT, COROT, YOU'VE GOT TO GET DOWN!  
THE CP'S ARE ON THEIR WAY!  
COROT, COROT, GET OFF THIS ROOF NOW!  
THERE'S NO TIME TO DELAY!

The CP's -- they took Faraday hostage! They know you're up here!

**COROT**

HE CALLED US IN. THAT JERK SOLD US OUT!  
NOW HE WANTS US TO BELIEVE HE'S OUR SCOUT!  
HE CALLED THE CP'S TO TELL THEM WHERE WE WERE,  
AND NOW HE'S GOT THE NERVE TO CAUSE ANOTHER STIR!

**HACKSEMBLE**

KEPLER CALLED THE CP'S? WHAT?! ARE YOU JOKING?!  
CAN'T BELIEVE YOU THINK YOU STILL CAN SHOW YOUR FACE HERE.  
STOP GETTING IN OUR WAY, STOP YOUR PROVOKING!  
LET US BE NOW, GO AWAY, YOU NEED TO DISAPPEAR!

**HACKSEMBLE**

KEPLER'S A BETRAYER,  
SHOULD BE DETESTED,  
DOING EVERYTHING HE CAN TO GET THIS  
HACK TO FAIL.  
NOW HE THINKS THAT WE'LL TAKE WHAT  
HE'S SUGGESTED  
AS TRUTH THAT WILL PROTECT US AND WILL  
HELP US TO PREVAIL!

**COROT**

STOP THIS RIGHT NOW, WE'RE  
PISSSED AT YOU ENOUGH  
WE DON'T BELIEVE A WORD,  
IT'S DONE, WE CALL YOUR  
BLUFF.

**BILLY**

I DON'T THINK KEPLER WANTS TO BRING THIS HACK DOWN LIKE YOU THINK.  
HE COULD REALLY WANT TO HELP US GET AWAY.  
IF HE IS RIGHT AND THE COPS ARE ON THEIR WAY,  
ISN'T IT BETTER TO CHOOSE NOT TO STAY?

**COROT**

IGNORE HIM FROSH, HE'S JUST  
TRYING TO SCREW WITH US.  
HE'S A TRAITOR, THERE IS  
NOTHING TO DISCUSS.

**BILLY**

PLEASE, COROT, LISTEN TO ME.  
BE COOL AND THINK THIS THROUGH.  
IF WE GOT CAUGHT WE'LL BE...  
LISTEN TO ME OR

**(add TESS)**

YOU COULD CHECK TOO/TO

**TESS**

SEE IF CAGE IS STILL READY AT HIS POST,  
IT WON'T TAKE TOO LONG, 30 SECONDS AT THE MOST.  
IF HE IS THERE, WE HAVE NOTHING TO FEAR.  
THIS HACK COULD BE ON THE LINE, IT'S AN EASY THING,

**COROT**

IT'S A WASTE OF  
TIME AND I DON'T  
NEED TO PROVE  
THAT  
HE CALLED US IN.  
THAT JERK SOLD  
US OUT!  
THERE'S NO WAY  
THAT I'LL BELIEVE  
HE'S OUR SCOUT!  
HE CALLED THE  
CP'S AND STABBED  
ME IN THE BACK!

**BILLY and TESS**

SO YOU SHOULD BE  
COOL AND THINK  
THIS THROUGH.  
  
YOU KNOW WHAT  
YOU SHOULD DO.  
JUST CALL UP CAGE.  
  
SEE IF HE'S THERE.  
  
RESOLVE THIS NOW  
YOU KNOW HOW.

**KEPLER**

COROT, COROT,  
PLEASE LISTEN  
TO ME!  
I KNOW, I KNOW,  
I SCREWED  
THINGS UP  
BEFORE,  
BUT THOSE  
TIMES ARE  
THROUGH!  
COROT, COROT,  
PLEASE LISTEN  
TO ME!

**HACKSEMBLE**

KEPLER  
CALLED THE  
CP'S. I CAN'T  
BELIEVE IT.  
WE CAN'T  
TRUST HIM.  
STAY OUT OF  
OUR WAY  
NOW.  
CAN'T SHAKE  
US ONE BIT.  
WE DON'T  
FOLLOW YOUR  
WHIM.

**TESS**

IF HE IS RIGHT AND THE COPS ARE ON THEIR WAY  
PLEASE COROT, LISTEN,  
CALL FARADAY

**COROT**

Fine, if that's what it takes to get on with this.

*COROT speaks into his communication device.*

Lead to Cage, what's your status?

*CLAW, FARADAY, PACHINO, and SPRINKLES speak their upcoming lines  
offstage, as if coming from the communication device.*

**PACHINO**

Uh, oh, hey Lead, word up ... ! Everything's good down here, no police officers or anything...

**COROT**

You okay, Cage?

**SPRINKLES**

Goddammit, Pachino! That's not what they sound like!

**CLAW**

Hello, hazardous materials division?

**SPRINKLES**

Give me that!

**CLAW**

I'd like to report a potentially radioactive item --

**PACHINO**

Quiet they'll hear if --

**SPRINKLES**

You be quiet --

**CLAW**

Well, if I stuck my finger in it, I --

**SPRINKLES**

Goddammit, Claw, it's not radioactive!

**FARADAY** (offstage)

Ugh... wha - where am -- What the -- !??? Ahhhhhh!

**PACHINO**

*(over FARADAY's screaming)*

Hey, he's getting away!

*COROT turns off his communication device.*

**COROT**

Punt! I'll stay and clean up!

**KEPLER**

I'll stay and help!

**COROT**

Everyone else, off the roof!

**COROT**

PUNT, GRAB  
WHAT YOU CAN  
AND GET OFF  
THE ROOF!  
WE'LL MEET ON  
THE GROUND,  
BUT RIGHT NOW  
JUST GET DOWN!  
I GUESS YOU  
TOLD THE TRUTH

**BILLY and TESS**

WE NEED TO GET  
OUT OF HERE.  
GOOD THING  
KEPLER HAD  
OUR BACKS.  
BUT WE'RE  
ALRIGHT,  
WE BLEND INTO  
THE NIGHT.  
THE TIMING  
MIGHT BE TIGHT,  
BUT WE'LL GET  
OUT OF SIGHT.  
CLEAR OFF THE

**KEPLER**

LET'S GO, LET'S  
GO  
THEY'RE ALMOST  
HERE NOW!  
LET'S GO, LET'S  
GO  
THEY'RE ALMOST  
HERE NOW!  
I'M GLAD, YOU  
COULD HEAR ME  
OUT.  
I THOUGHT, I  
THOUGHT YOU

**HACKSEMBLE**

WE HAVE GOT TO  
GO NOW,  
QUICK LIKE A  
SHADOW,  
THROUGH THE  
NIGHT WE FLY.  
GHOSTLY LIKE A  
SPIRIT ,  
YOU CANNOT  
HEAR IT,  
AS WE SLIP AWAY  
  
WE GUESS HE  
TOLD THE TRUTH



**COROT**

-- You stabbed me in the back!

**KEPLER**

Only because you stabbed me in the back!

**COROT**

Are you kidding?

**KEPLER**

I left that summer, and you forgot about me.

**COROT**

What are you talking -- [about?]

**KEPLER**

I'm talking about the summer after freshman year. I went away and when I came back, I found out that you pulled a dome hack without me --

**COROT**

Because you weren't -- [here.]

**KEPLER**

-- and you didn't even have the decency to tell me you were doing it.

**COROT**

You can't blame me for having an idea and then -- [pulling a hack.]

**KEPLER**

*(yelling with frustration)*

Goddammit, shut up, Corot, and listen for once!

*(pause)*

I don't know if you remember all of our adventures freshmen year, but I miss them. And I still wish that your first dome hack would have been our first dome hack.

**COROT**

I didn't think that -- [you would be so bothered by that.]

**KEPLER**

It seems you never think. Look, let's just get out of here.  
*(returning to packing)*

**COROT**

Kepler, I'm really sorry. When I led that hack, I thought you'd be excited, I thought you'd want to help me lead the next one. I thought...

*(pausing, frustrated with himself but determined to admit wrong)*

You're right.

*KEPLER slows packing.*

I didn't think. I should have considered waiting. That was stupid of me. I'm sorry.

**KEPLER**

I'm sorry I called you in. I guess it's too late now.

**COROT**

No. It's never too late!

### *Counterbalance*

Do you trust me?

**KEPLER**

*(skeptically)*

Trust you? Why?

**COROT**

Let's counterbalance rappel off this roof.

**KEPLER**

Counterbalance rappel? You mean you want me to jump off this building with you as my counterweight?

**COROT**

And I want to do the same for you. It'll be an adventure, like we used to have.



**KEPLER**

*(contemplatively)*

Well, we have to get down somehow --

**COROT**

And what better way to do it than this?

**KEPLER**

-- and the CP's are coming, and this is a route they probably won't be taking. Also, we won't have to pack the rest of this rope.

*(pause)*

This is insane.

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

**COROT and KEPLER**

Hell yes!

*COROT and KEPLER prepare to rappel. COROT and KEPLER take off their pants... to reveal a harness on top of another identical pair of pants. Actors should actually safety check each other out loud, for example (can change depending on system of setup, can omit if not actually rappelling):*

**KEPLER**

*Check my harness?*

**COROT**

*Doubled back? Looks good. Check mine?*

**KEPLER**

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

*COROT and KEPLER lower the 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?

**KEPLER**

Mens et manus, motherfucker!

**COROT**

**COROT and KEPLER**

AS WE FLY  
THROUGH THE NIGHT TIME,

**KEPLER**

CONCEALED BY THE DARK,

**COROT**

WE BRAVELY EMBARK

**COROT and KEPLER**

ON OUR PATH REUNITED.  
AS THE AIR  
RUSHES BY ME,

**COROT**

ONCE AGAIN, I SEE  
THERE'S MORE TO MIT,

**KEPLER**

JUST LIKE FRESHMAN YEAR,

**COROT and KEPLER**

FROM WAY UP HERE.

**COROT**

BACK IN THE DAY WE NEVER STOPPED TO FRET.

**KEPLER**

BUT NOW I CAN'T FORGET

**COROT and KEPLER**

HOW WE BOTH RUINED IT...

**COROT**  
BUT LET'S NOT DWELL.

**KEPLER**  
THE COPS ARE IN PURSUIT!

**COROT**  
WE'LL HACK AS ONE

**COROT and KEPLER**  
AND TAKE OVER THE INSTITUTE!  
AS THE DOME  
SOARS ABOVE US,

**KEPLER**  
WE'RE A TEAM AGAIN,

**COROT**  
AND WE'LL SCHEME AGAIN,

**COROT and KEPLER**  
BUT BETTER THAN BEFORE!  
HELL YEAH! WE'RE UNSTOPPABLE!

**KEPLER**  
THOUGH WE MAY HAVE LOST HOPE,

**COROT**  
AT THE END OF OUR ROPE,

**COROT and KEPLER**  
WE WERE DUMB...  
BUT WE SURVIVED!

*COROT and KEPLER bro-clasp, pull down the rope, and exit.*

**SPRINKLES** (offstage)  
Fire!

*A crescendo-ing whistling noise is heard, shortly followed by a thundering boom and bright glow of light from offstage. SPRINKLES, PACHINO, CLAW, and KALF enter on a fire-throwing blimp. KALF is wearing a pair of soot-covered rubber gloves and carrying a shovel.*

One hacker may have escaped, but the others won't be so lucky! They've got to be up here somewhere! Search every nook and cranny! Kalf! Ready the flame thrower ...

*PACHINO and CLAW begin to scour the roof, though it's very clear there are no hackers anywhere.*

**KALF**

Sir, the roof is empty and we're out of bituminous coal. Also, our warning-fire-ball appears to have set fire to a piece of modern art.

**CLAW**

*(squinting to see the offstage burning statue)*

Huh, I always thought that was just black scrap metal...

**KALF**

I'm calling the fire department, sir.

*KALF quietly dials the fire department under the proceeding dialogue.*

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

**SPRINKLES**

But... but... but where are the hackers?!

**PACHINO**

Kalf's right! They're not here! They must have gotten away!

**CLAW**

*(still looking at the statue)*

You know, it looks kind of pretty with all the fire and stuff.

**SPRINKLES**

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

*(shaking a fist at the sky)*

*KALF stows the shovel back in the blimp and removes her gloves.*

**KALF**

Sir. Let's return to the station. We're not needed here.

*KALF hoists SPRINKLES up to his feet.*

**SPRINKLES**

Goddammit, Kalf! How could they have escaped me?

**KALF**

I'm not sure, sir.

**SPRINKLES**

We've tried to be reasonable! We've talked to them, we've told them the consequences, we built a goddamn blimp!

**KALF**

I know, sir.

**SPRINKLES**

And now the modern art is on fire! Look what they've made me do! They've made me look like a monster!

***Let's Get Those Fuckers, reprise***

*(slowly)*

I BECAME A COP SO LONG AGO AND SWORE THAT I'D PURSUE  
THE TASK OF BRINGING JUSTICE TO THE WORLD THROUGH AND THROUGH...

*(gasps. He finally gets it.)*

BUT MAYBE I LOST SIGHT.

That's... that's it... we have lost sight... Kalf!

YES, NOW I SEE THE LIGHT!

CATCHING HACKERS IS NOT ALL WE SWORE TO DO!

We've allowed ourselves to become obsessed with catching those hackers, and in our obsession, we caused even more trouble than the hackers caused in the first place. Our priority should be to protect the school, and we're goddamn good at that, goddammit.

**KALF**

I've been telling you this all along, sir.

**SPRINKLES**

*(ignoring KALF entirely)*

It's a lucky thing I made this realization!

**KALF**

Never mind.

**PACHINO**

But, Sergeant! Hackers are criminals!

**SPRINKLES**

And if we catch them, we'll deal with them appropriately, but from now on, I'm going to remember with a more compassionate heart why I made that vow those many years ago.

**PACHINO**

I guess you're right, sir...

**SPRINKLES**

Of course I'm right, goddammit, I'm Sergeant Bruce E. Sprinkles! Come on, let's go! The night may need us, goddammit.

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

**CLAW, KALF, PACHINO, and SPRINKLES**

AWAY!

*Blackout.*

**SCENE 2.9 -- The Great Dome by Day**

*Lights come up on STORY JACK.*

**STORY JACK**

Halloween came and passed, and though there was no grand object on the dome to celebrate the festivities, most of the hackers had a good Halloween, nonetheless. There was partying, and far too much candy, and at least one of them slept through the entire day. Yet, for some, it was the morning after Halloween that was more special...

*Lights fade down on STORY JACK. STORY JACK exits. The dome is illuminated, as if by moonlight. The sound of birds chirping is faintly heard. BILLY and TESS appear from behind the dome.*

**BILLY**

*(whispering)*

Do you think anyone's down there?

**TESS**

Don't be so nervous. We're fine.

**BILLY**

*(looking out at the skyline)*

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

**TESS**

Well, they do call it magic.

**BILLY**

*(checking the time)*

Man, I used to wake up at this time. You can almost see the sun coming up.

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

Hey, Tess...?

**TESS**

Yes?

**BILLY**

I just realized what today is! It's November 1st!

**TESS**

That must mean --

*TESS hesitantly reaches out her hand to grab BILLY's. They pause, then grab hands and close their eyes, waiting for the sound of the NOVEMBAT, which never comes. They open their eyes. Suddenly a burst of light illuminates the sky and the NOVEMBAT appears on a distant rooftop, partly shrouded by shadows, gnashing its teeth in indignant fury. The NOVEMBAT smiles its hideous smile and takes a step toward BILLY and TESS, but it recoils immediately, letting out a cry of pain as its flesh burns from the November sun. It shrieks and hisses as it slithers away, not to return for another year. STORY JACK enters.*

*Dawn*

**STORY JACK**

AND THOUGH THE HACKERS' NIGHT WORKS  
NEVER SAW THE LIGHT OF DAY,  
THEIR EFFORTS WEREN'T WITHOUT PERKS.  
AND MORE HACKS WERE UNDERWAY.

*COROT enters.*

**COROT**

HACKS HAVE A BEAUTY, NO ONE CAN DENY -  
THERE'S A LESSON IN THERE TOO.

*KEPLER enters.*

**KEPLER**

LOOK PAST THE SURFACE, THERE'S MORE THAN MEETS THE EYE,  
THE BEST STUFF IS OUT OF VIEW.

*HUNTER enters. The rest of the HACKSEMBLE begin to filter in.*

**HUNTER**

THERE IS MORE TO MIT THAN EARNING YOUR DEGREE!



*FARADAY enters.*

**FARADAY**

ALL THE JOLT YOU DRINK CAN'T REPLACE A GOOD NIGHT'S REST...

*FROSHSEMBLE enter.*

**RYAN**

THIS HACK WAS REALLY GREAT!

**CONNER**

AND THOUGH THE PSET WAS KIND OF LATE...

**RYAN and CONNER**

NO GRADES COMPARE WITH STORIES FROM OUR QUEST!

**FROSEMBLE**

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

*CLAW, KALF, and PACHINO enter.*

**PACHINO**

IF YOUR DAY'S NOT GOING RIGHT,

**KALF**

THEN MAYBE YOU'VE LOST SIGHT,

**CLAW**

OF WHY YOU WORK ALL NIGHT.

*PISTON enters.*

**PISTON**

DO NOT BLAME THE FRIENDS BESIDE YOU.

*TENSOR enters with ELECTRA and MAGS, who are holding a bit of rope.*

**TENSOR**

THEY COULD TIE YOU UP REAL TIGHT...

*SPRINKLES enters.*

**SPRINKLES**

WE DIDN'T GET THOSE FUCKERS!

**ELECTRA and MAGS**

*(patting SPRINKLES on the back)*

BUT YOU HAD A GREATER GOAL!

**PACHINO**

WE NEED MORE BITUMINOUS COAL!

*The HACKSEMBLE have all entered.*

**HACKSEMBLE**

THOUGH OUR HACK WAS ALMOST  
CAUGHT,  
OUR WORK WAS NOT FOR NAUGHT.  
THE HOURS WE SPENT ARE PRECIOUS  
TO THE LAST!  
ONCE YOU'VE TIED UP ALL THE KNOTS,  
AND FINISHED ALL YOUR PLOTS,

**COROT and KEPLER**

THE NIGHT MAY BE ENDING,  
A NEW DAY'S BEGUN,  
I KNOW  
WE WILL HACK AS ONE,  
UNDER A BRAND NEW SUN.  
YOU DON'T HAVE TO  
GO IT ALONE.

JUST

**ALL**

SEE THE PEOPLE WHO STAYED UP WITH YOU 'TIL DAWN!

**BILLY**

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

**TESS**

I don't either! I want to be so much more!

**BILLY**

Tess?

**TESS**

What is it Billy?

*TESS and BILLY kiss.*

**COROT**

THERE IS MORE TO LIFE THAN HACKING,

**KEPLER**

THERE IS MORE TO LIFE THAN PUNTING,

**ALL (less BILLY and TESS if their mouths are occupied)**

THERE IS MORE TO LIFE THAN TOOLING.

**BILLY**

I have a great idea for a hack!

*TESS and BILLY kiss again, hardk0re.*

**ALL (less BILLY and TESS: their mouths are occupied)**

DON'T YOU KNOW!

*Blackout.*

*Bows*

*Exit*

**SCENE 0.0 -- Preshow****FEARLESS PRE-SHOW ANNOUNCER**

Welcome to the MIT Musical Theatre Guild's premiere production of "Hack, Punt, Tool." Before we begin, we have a few ground rules for you to follow. I want you all to take out your cell phones. Take 'em out so I can see. Come on, I know you have 'em. Your mommies and daddies practically shove 'em in your diapers now-a-days. Good. Now, I want you to hold down that little red button until the phone turns off. Not silent, not pleasure-vibrate mode. Off. The last thing we want is to be in the middle of a scene and for your phat new ring-tone to go off like a flashing fucking beacon! We also ask that you refrain from photography. If we catch you using a camera, we will take it from you, delete the offending pictures, and give it back to you at the end of the performance. Enjoy the show.