

Untitled Work

By

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Adapted from the Novel "Rice Tea"
by Julien McArdle

INT. BLACK HAT'S ROOM. NIGHT.

A hacker types away at the back-lit keys of the computer keyboard. He has two monitors, one of which is playing Japanese Hentai. He turns down his speakers and looks up to the terminal window on the screen.

The black hat hacker types a few extra keys and pauses. The terminal window replies with copious amount of green text on its black background. The hacker sits back. Though his face is never entirely visible, we see a smug smile.

The camera enters the screen, triggering a CG animation of computers being infected on a network. Opening credits.

INT. SETH'S TOWN HOME. DAY.

Seth is in bed. The alarm goes off, and is met by a thwack of the hand. Seth cleans up in the washroom, and we see that he has breasts. He is a pre-op female to male transexual. He puts on a chest binder, followed by a shirt.

Seth walks down the stairs to the main floor of his town home, grabs a sheet from the laser printer as it finishes printing and posts it on the fridge. The camera quickly sees an article about the Meteo botnet. His roommate is also in the kitchen, preparing some eggs. Seth grabs some bread and puts it in the toaster.

SETH

Did you end up going to that party last night?

ROOMMATE

Nah. Went for some kareoke with Bo instead. I texted you to come over.

SETH

Did you?

Seth checks his phone.

SETH

Ah I missed it. I miss like half the calls with this thing. I had a chem paper though anyways - I wouldn't have been able to come.

Seth puts his sneakers, and walks out the door.

EXT. UNIVERSITY CAMPUS.

Seth gets off of a light rail train onto university campus. He walks past a sign that welcomes him to "Canada's University."

INT. UNIVERSITY CAMPUS.

Seth puts sugar in a cup of coffee.

JINKS
Mandy Mandy Mandy!

SETH
(Unenthused)
Jinks this isn't high school. If you call me that one more time I will hurt you.

JINKS
Sorry Seth. So I tried hacking that one-two-seven dot whatever IP address you gave me yesterday? I was using Sploitster to do it.

SETH
(Still unenthused)
Find anything interesting?

Jinks pulls a piece of crumpled newspaper from his pocket.

JINKS
Yeah! Check this out! It was an ATM!

Seth grabs the crumpled piece so that its not so close to his face and reads it.

JINKS
It spewed twenties randomly on the ground somewhere in hick-town Saskatchewan. That was me!

SETH
Jinks, you couldn't of hacked anything with that address. It loops back to your -

Seth looks up to the clock on a wall. Seth looks back down to his watch.

(CONTINUED)

SETH

Jinks, I'm about to be late for class. I got to go.

JINKS

Alright. I got Polish cinema too. Pretty impressive though eh?

SETH

Sure.

Seth takes a last gulp of his coffee and throws it in the garbage. He walks through nearby doors, down some stairs, down a hall, and into the university arcade. He walks up to a fighter arcade machine, where someone is focused playing.

SETH

Gab, we have class in less than five.

Gabriel finishes off his virtual opponent in a matter of seconds.

GABRIEL

Okay, I'm done.

INT. UNIVERSITY BUILDING.

Gabriel and Seth walk hastily down a hall. They enter a class, careful to close the door quietly.

PROFESSOR

So you can see that two's complement is the more efficient -

The professor stops talking and looks at the new arrival. Seth mouths an apology. The professor faces back the class and resumes.

Seth moves to a seat at the back of the class. He looks around the room, and stops his eyes on a girl: Kerstin. He glances to her as he draws her in his notebook with a few hearts.

GABRIEL

(whisper)

I think you're freaking her out.

On his next glance down, Seth sees Kerstin looking straight back at him.

(CONTINUED)

SETH

Fuck.

GABRIEL

New record Seth: It took you three months for you to freak her out. What was it last time - 2 days?

SETH

Yeah yeah.

The professor continues on talking.

PROFESSOR

Be careful though, because there is a distinction between using arrays and pointers. If we -

The teacher looks up. The students are putting their notebooks in their bags. He looks down at his watch.

PROFESSOR

Alright, it looks like we're out of time. Don't forget that assignment four is due next Thursday!

Gabriel looks to Seth.

GABRIEL

Are we still on for beer?

SETH

You know it.

INT. CAMPUS BAR.

Seth looks out the window, to the students walking in and out of the nearby library. Gabriel sits down, and slides a beer over to Seth.

SETH

Thanks.

GABRIEL

What's on your mind?

SETH

Oh, just thinking about how I'm going to miss all of this.

(CONTINUED)

GABRIEL

Miss what?

Seth grabs his laptop from his bag and opens it up. Gabriel does the same. They turn them on.

SETH

University. All those parties. The stupid shit we've done. Like when we fed the hamster weed, or like when we made roadblocks with the trees people were throwing out after Christmas.

GABRIEL

Or the races down the hill with the computer chairs. It went by fast didn't it?

SETH

Yeah... It's depressing.

GABRIEL

But who says it all has to end just because university is coming to a close?

Seth looks at Gabriel for a pensive moment, and then to his screen.

SETH

Let's see what kind of catch we have today.

GABRIEL

Way ahead of you.

The camera follows from Gabriel's laptop to the local wifi repeater, down ethernet wires, over to another repeater, and to a computer that's sleeping in a class. Sound effect of digital data passing through. The hard drive LED of the targeted computer lights up.

GABRIEL

Jackpot. Looks like a prof's slides for class.

Seth moves to look over Gabriel's shoulder.

GABRIEL

Shall I?

Seth nods. Gabriel types away. The computer on the other end is picked up by a professor.

INT. CLASSROOM.

The professor presents slides on the genesis of sedimentary rocks. He moves on to the next slide on the laptop that Gabriel had gained access, and the students erupt in laughter.

The professor looks back, and sees a single repeating video clip of a bug-eyed hamster giving a very human-like look of surprise. Beneath the video is the short caption "Brought to you by the Digital Losers."

INT. CAMPUS BAR.

Seth and Gabriel are still drinking their beers.

SETH

I'm thinking of starting university all over again just so I can stay here.

GABRIEL

Get a master's.

SETH

I could. But as weird as this sounds, its the social experience of getting raped in my first year classes that I miss most.

GABRIEL

Yeah, that is weird.

SETH

Thanks. Mmm - got a guy here.

Seth was looking through computer files, and opened up a powerpoint file. One of the slides contains a pie chart presenting the break down of the last midterm. Seth changes the caption "Failed Midterm" to "Sucked Ass."

SETH

I've been giving this second degree a lot of thought. I'm thinking that I'll jump into computer engineering once I finish with biochem.

GABRIEL

You wouldn't have much more to do to get it wouldn't you? I mean, how many computer science classes have you *not* taken already?

(CONTINUED)

SETH

A fair amount, actually. I'd need
to stay here for another two years.

Gabriel finishes his drink.

GABRIEL

Keith's again?

SETH

Sure!

INT. SETH'S APARTMENT. DAY.

Seth's alarm goes off. He slaps it shut.

INT. UNIVERSITY HALLWAY.

Seth and Gabriel walk down the bustling halls.

SETH

I think I'm going to ask her out.

GABRIEL

Who? Kerstin?

SETH

Yeah. But whatever chance I had I'm
pretty sure I blew it yesterday.
She's got to think that I'm a
creep.

Gabriel stops walking and turns to Seth.

GABRIEL

So how about this: I'll invite her
to Saturday's hackfest.

SETH

She'll say no.

GABRIEL

If it's you asking her, then maybe.
Or okay, most probably. But I
worked with her on that fractals
project and I *know* that'd she'd
be interested in the kind of stuff
we do. She might say yes.

SETH

Mrmm...

GABRIEL

C'mon. You have nothing to lose.
Say it. Say you want me to ask her
out to this.

SETH

Yeah, alright. God knows I'm going
to regret this.

INT. COMPUTER LAB.

Seth sits down a seat towards the back of the class. The professor is busy preparing her papers. Seth sees Gabriel sit down next to Kerstin towards the front of the room.

Gabriel leans over to Kerstin, and speaks to her. She shakes her head and talks to him. Seth writes in a program on his terminal window (AMSN.)

SETH

(Instant Message)
What did she say?

SETH

(Instant Message)
Is she going to come?

Gabriel looks down to his terminal and types back. The response is seen on Seth's workstation screen.

GABRIEL

(Instant Message)
No. She says she can't make it.
Some family affair.

GABRIEL

(Instant Message)
Sorry bud.

INT. SETH'S APPARTMENT. NIGHT.

Seth walks through the door and takes off his Starbucks hat, and puts his apron aside. In the washroom, he takes off his binder and rubs his sides in pain.

Walking back to the living room, he sees his roommate play some variant of Guitar Hero.

(CONTINUED)

ROOMMATE
You ask her out?

SETH
(Dissapointed)
Yeah.

ROOMMATE
That bad eh?

Seth nods back.

ROOMMATE
Want to play for a bit?

SETH
Sure, why not.

Seth approaches the television. His roommate hands him a plastic guitar, and the two play off.

INT. SETH'S APPARTMENT. DAY.

The alarm goes off. Seth slaps it shut. On the sheet that he puts against the fridge wall, there's a note that today is the hackfest.

EXT. RESIDENTIAL STREET. SUN DOWN.

Seth rides his bike up to a house. He places the bike on the side and walks in.

INT. ERIC'S HOUSE.

Seth walks down the stairs. Old system motherboards serve as wall decorations. There's a large server, and a video stream projected to the wall. Gabriel, Jinks, Eric, and a few others are there, all with open laptops.

SETH
Hey guys! Eric - like the new wall deco.

ERIC
Thanks! Made them last week from work surplus parts.

Gabriel hands Seth a beer.

(CONTINUED)

GABRIEL

Hey! You just missed two-thirds the new Binary Phunksters episode.

Seth sits down and looks up to the video.

EXT. TORONTO'S STREETS. DAY.

i0 and Flow, the hosts of Binary Phunksters, walk down a busy Toronto sidewalk with a laptop in hand.

I0

We've found another one here. I can now connect to the cellphone, and this time, we'll use it as eavesdropping device.

Flow types a few keystrokes in the terminal window on his laptop screen, and the sound of a person comes on.

UNIDENTIFIED PERSON #1

(Slight lisp)

That tie gives you a fresh look. Very *nouveau*. Mmm.. want to check it over there?

UNIDENTIFIED PERSON #2

Oh sure. How much is it?

UNIDENTIFIED PERSON #1

Let me see.

I0

All this because they didn't change their Bluetooth PIN from the default. Remember folks: if its on default...

I0 & FLOW

(In unison)

...its as good as hacked.

FLOW

Just ask Paris Hilton. See you in two weeks!

INT. ERIC'S HOUSE. NIGHT.

The end credits for Binary Phunksters come on. A female text-to-speech voices comes on.

FEMALE VOICE
Next on rootTV, Hacker Jeopardy.

ATTENDEE
I'll get another beer.

The intro sequence to Hacker Jeopardy starts. The doorbell to Eric's house rings.

ERIC
Were we anticipating anyone else?

SETH
I don't think so. I'll go check it out.

Seth walks up the stairs and opens the door. It's Kerstin.

SETH
Kerstin?

KERSTIN
(Shy)
Hey. Apparently there's a bit of a comp fest going on here tonight?

SETH
Yeah... Yeah! Come on in.

Seth walks down the top stairs with Kerstin.

SETH
Gabriel told me you were invited, but I thought he said you had something happening tonight.

KERSTIN
My birthday party.

SETH
Oh.

They reach the bottom of the stairs. The Hacker Jeopardy show is still running, albeit muted.

SETH
Hey guys. This is Kerstin, and she skipped her own birthday party to be here.

(CONTINUED)

ERIC

You skipped your own birthday party to hang out with strangers? Harsh. Happy birthday.

JINKS

Yeah, happy birthday.

KERSTIN

Thanks, but its next week.

Seth looks around the room.

SETH

Okay, well this is Gabriel, who you already know. We also call him Riscphree. And this here is Eric, who goes by the name of Colonel Panic.

Seth moves around the room.

SETH

This is Jinks... Also known as Jinks. He doesn't like us calling him by his real name. Then there's Dave, aka. Hacknslash, Pat, aka. rm-rf, and Greg, aka. SIGINT. And finally, I'm Seth, or ion, if you catch me online.

Kerstin nods in acknowledgement.

ERIC

Alright, are we ready?

SETH

I think so.

Kerstin takes her laptop out of her bag. Dave presents her with a can.

DAVE

Beer?

KERSTIN

Sure, thanks.

Eric unmutes the Hacker Jeopardy show.

INT. HACKER JEOPARDY STAGE.

A host stands in front with three contestants. The setup mirrors the Jeopardy format.

HOST

OpenBSD is widely considered to be one the most secure operating systems available. Name one of the critical vulnerabilities that has been documented on the platform in the last two years.

INT. ERIC'S HOUSE.

There are shouts of answers emanating from the room.

GREG

There was none! It's a trick question!

DAVE

No, no, there was one... what was it?

GABRIEL

The fake one? Does the OpenSSH problem with the hashes they had count?

INT. HACKER JEOPARDY STAGE.

Sound of a buzzer.

CONTESTANT #1

What is the DNS Bind cache poisoning vulnerability?

HOST

Judges?

The host looks off to the side, off camera, for an answer.

HOST

No, I'm sorry, that's not among them.

Buzzer. It's contestant #2, who is wearing a t-shirt with the slogan "I read your emails."

(CONTINUED)

CONTESTANT #2
What is the lprm exploit?

HOST
That is correct.

CONTESTANT #2
Programming languages for 0x1F4.

HOST
The 'R' in K&R is the father of the
C Programming language. The two
also wrote the bible on the matter,
often referred to by computer
science teachers and students alike
as the 'white book.' What does K&R
stand for?

INT. ERIC'S HOUSE.

Eric takes a sip from his beer.

ERIC
Kernighan and Ritchie.

INT. HACKER JEOPARDY STAGE.

CONTESTANT #1
Who is Kerry and Ritchie?

HOST
No, I'm sorry.

CONTESTANT #3
Who is Kendell and Ritchie?

HOST
That isn't it either.

There's a pause of a few seconds.

HOST
The names we were looking for was
Kernighan and Ritchie.

EXT. ERIC'S PATIO. NIGHT.

All of the attendees of the hackfest are outside. They are speaking loudly due to their inebriation. Eric is talking to Kerstin.

ERIC

Everyone bashes on Javascript, because Microsoft messed things up with JScript. But what's out there now is pretty awesome, especially when there's stuff like JSON-

Dave is talking to the others, except for Greg.

DAVE

Do you guys ever notice how small the hacking community is? Isn't it crazy that we know pretty much everyone, and if we don't know a specific person - we know someone who does?

PAT

I don't know... I went to Defcon last year. There were like 8,000 hackers there, and I only knew a handful.

Greg walks up to Seth.

GREG

We're going for a bit of 420. Want to join?

EXT. PARK BENCH. NIGHT.

Dave takes a deep puff from a joint and passes it to Seth.

KERSTIN

So anyways, their IT department said I "hacked" it and started to blame me for everything. Greater latency? They were saying I was causing it. Some server crashed? They'd blame me for it too. It was so stupid. They were telling me that they were going to expel me.

Seth blinks, as if to maintain focus. Kerstin takes a swig.

(CONTINUED)

KERSTIN

My dad is a diplomat here. He got me to transfer out of the university in Vienna and worked hard so that I could study here in peace.

SETH

What's with the deal of you skipping your b-day party?

KERSTIN

I love my dad. I hate his Canadian wife. No offense.

SETH

Shit.

Seth takes another swig from his beer. Jinks leans over from behind the bench.

JINKS

So Kerstin, does that mean you can root a box then?

GABRIEL

Whoa. I didn't even see you there.

SETH

What kind of question is that?

KERSTIN

(Playful)

What, are you saying I couldn't?

SETH

No, no.

KERSTIN

Oh, so you're saying girls can't hack? Is that it?

Seth grins.

SETH

No, just German girls.

KERSTIN

Is that a challenge?

SETH

It could be if you wanted it to be.

(CONTINUED)

KERSTIN
(Still playful)
Fine. Name your terms.

SETH
If I win, we go on a date.

KERSTIN
Two problems with that. One - it's
kind of creepy. Two - I'm not a
whore.

Seth smiles, but has a pained face.

SETH
Okay, name your terms then.

KERSTIN
If I win -

Seth opens his eyes up and blinks, trying to maintain focus.
There's a "thunk" sound and the screen goes black.

EXT. BUSY STREET CORNER. DAY.

Seth blinks. He is sitting cross-legged on the corner of a
busy street intersection. He looks around, bewildered, and
then to his watch. He grabs his head in pain.

Seth pats his pockets. He grabs his wallet, peers inside,
and looks back up in gives off a grunt. Seth grabs his
phone, and sees that there are three missed calls. He dials
a number.

INT. ERIC'S HOUSE. DAY.

Gabriel is sleeping on the floor. The phone in his shirt
pocket begins to vibrate. Its screen glows through the
cloth.

GABRIEL
(Tired)
Hell-lo?

EXT. BUSY STREET CORNER. DAY.

SETH
Gab, what happened last night?

INT. ERIC'S HOUSE. DAY.

GABRIEL
Spiked drinks. And you and Kerstin
decided to do some kind of
competition.

SETH
(Through phone)
Really?

EXT. BUSY STREET CORNER. DAY.

GABRIEL
(Through phone)
Yeah. What time is it?

Seth looks at his watch.

SETH
8:12 AM

GABRIEL
(Through phone)
Call me later and we'll talk about
it.

Seth clasps the phone shut. Gabriel collapses back on the
floor. Seth looks around him, and starts walking.

EXT. CAFE PATIO. DAY.

Seth, Gabriel, Kerstin and Eric are sitting around a table.

GABRIEL
Are you guys still in?

KERSTIN
Yes!

SETH
(Not excited)
Yeah, yeah.

ERIC
Awesome. So here's the deal: You
will each perform technically
challenging social feats. The one
who pulls off the best stunt will
get bragging rights, but as you so
enthusiastically agreed to last

(MORE)

(CONTINUED)

ERIC (cont'd)
night Seth, the loser will have to
wear a dress for a day to all the
classes.

Seth looks to Gabriel with an incredulous gaze.

SETH
Did I really agree to this?

GABRIEL
Don't look at me like that, this
was your idea.

SETH
That's not particularly fair is it?
It's no big deal if she ends up
wearing a dress.

KERSTIN
You chose the terms Seth. You can
still back out if you want.

SETH
No, it's all right. I'll do it.

ERIC
Great. Gabriel and I will be the
judges.

EXT. RETAIL MEGASTORE.

Seth is on a patch of grass outside the megastore parking
lot. Eric and Kerstin are with him. Seth has his laptop open
with him.

ERIC
What are you doing?

SETH
You'll see.

Seth's laptop is open. It connects to an unprotected wifi
access point. He Googles for the name of the megastore in
Ottawa, and yields search results with phone numbers.

INT. RETAIL MEGASTORE.

Gabriel is walking around the store with an empty shopping cart.

EXT. RETAIL MEGASTORE.

Seth talks through a headpiece on his laptop. He dials a number through Skype.

RECORDING
(Through headphones)
Welcome to Wülmürt Megastore.

There is a pause.

RECORDING
(Through headphones)
For cookware, please press one; for
electronics, please press two; for
hardware please press three.

Seth presses a key on his laptop, producing a multifrequency tone.

INT. RETAIL MEGASTORE.

MEGASTORE EMPLOYEE
Hardware.

EXT. RETAIL MEGASTORE.

SETH
Hey - I'm James with electronics?

MEGASTORE EMPLOYEE
(Through headphones)
Yeah, whats up James.

SETH
Well uh - you see I gotta make an
announcement about a sale.
Manager's not here though. Do you
what the number is to get on the
PA?

INT. RETAIL MEGASTORE.

MEGASTORE EMPLOYEE
Star four seven.

SETH
(Through headpiece)
Thanks.

EXT. RETAIL MEGASTORE.

SETH