

Xavier Grades

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FADE IN

INT. JJ'S OFFICE

The screen is black.

JJ (V.O.)

It all started with a simple case.
Someone was going around stealing
flash drives.

The scene fades in. We see the top of a dimly lit desk. A brief second passes before a briefcase is slammed down, unlatched, and opened dramatically to reveal a stash of stolen technology. A group of students are huddled around the open briefcase. In the center stands one boy who remains stone-faced, contrasting the excited students surrounding him. This is JJ. He is dressed to the nines and the light, although dim, is primarily on his face.

JJ

Is this what everyone was looking
for?

RANDOM STUDENT (O.S.)

Wow. How did you find them?

The students crowd in to retrieve their objects. MIRANDA is first in line. She is wearing a bizarre outfit from Dance Company. She grabs a flash-drive, checking for something, and seems satisfied as she puts it in her pocket.

MIRANDA

Thanks, champ.

She winks and exits. The other students grab their things and leave. In the end, one flash drive is left. DYLAN, a classic looking nerd, grabs it and exits.

CUT TO BLACK

TITLE CARD: Xavier Grades

TITLE CARD: MONDAY: MAY 5TH, 2008

INT. LOBBY

JJ walks through the front door like a movie star. The picture freezes.

JJ (V.O.)

My name is JJ Wells, P.I., student
detective.

MONTAGE - FLASHBACKS - INTRODUCING JJ

The following montage is very smooth, much like JJ's attitude towards his work.

--We see the door to JJ's office, proudly adorning his name.

JJ (V.O.)

I work for the students of this high school.

--Moving in to JJ's office, we now see a student in a meeting with JJ. She seems nervous.

JJ (V.O.)

They come to me with cases. I come back with results.

--JJ is seen spying on another student.

JJ (V.O.)

I'll do whatever it takes, as long as the price is right.

--JJ spies on another student, this time using his camera to gather evidence.

JJ (V.O.)

And I've never let a case go cold.

--Another new student appears in JJ's office handing over an envelope filled with JJ's payment.

JJ (V.O.)

Until now.

INT. JJ'S OFFICE

There is a knock at the door. JJ looks up to see a confident girl walking in with her head held high, twirling her hair. The look on her face as she sits gives us the impression that she believes herself to be fairly high on the totem pole of high school. This is HANNAH. She is a ditzy airhead. Looking around the dark office, she clutches a purse close as if she thinks someone will take it.

JJ

Well? What can I do for you?

HANNAH

WELL I hear you've never let a case go cold.

JJ

...yeah.

HANNAH

(as if gossiping)

I have a case.

JJ

Most do.

She is a little put-off. She clearly isn't used to people talking to her like this.

HANNAH

(to herself, low in energy)

O.K...

(to JJ, suddenly very enthusiastic again)

It's about my boyfriend, Tom.

JJ

What about him?

HANNAH

I think he's cheating on me.

JJ takes notes in a small notebook.

JJ

Got any evidence?

HANNAH

Well, no. He's just been sneaking around a lot lately. I saw him talking to this girl the other day...

He cuts her off.

JJ

Alright, well what have you got to offer?

She takes an envelope out of her purse and slides it across the table. JJ opens and quickly flips through, counting the money.

JJ (CONT'D)

Seems like enough. So what does this Tom character look like anyway?

She reaches back into her purse and takes out a beaten up

picture of him. He is wearing a football jersey, showing his athleticism. She also grabs a photo of a girl, which JJ seems to ignore.

HANNAH

Take this. It's a photo of Tom and the girl I've been seeing him with.

JJ

Good enough. If I need anything I'll find YOU.

HANNAH

OK!

She stands, and exits, talking to herself.

HANNAH

So exciting!

JJ takes Tom's picture and pins it up on his board.

JJ (V.O.)

The detective work is better left to the detectives. Never trust anyone else's perspective-only your own.

QUICK BLACKOUT

TITLE CARD: TUESDAY

INT. HALLWAY

JJ stands at his locker. The inside is filled with newspaper clippings about his past successes. On the surrounding lockers are WANTED posters in search of the Xavier Grades. He is peering over at Tom, who stands with his big, muscle-y friends at another locker. JJ takes a picture as a girl approaches.

JJ (V.O.)

With a case like this, the easiest way to start is always observation.

Tom watches as the girl from the photo, Taylor, hands him a note. JJ clearly takes an interest in the situation. Tom looks at the girl as if he doesn't know her.

TOM

Uhh, thanks?

She walks away, rolling her eyes, as Tom's friends laugh at her and he crumples up the note. JJ looks on, confused.

Tom looks towards his friends.

TOM (CONT'D)

Hey guys, I'll catch ya later?

They agree, parting ways. Tom stays at his locker, uncrumples the note, and looks at it. Nodding, he puts it on the shelf in his locker and walks away. JJ watches him for a moment before running up to the locker. He opens it, takes the note, and looks at it confused. On it appears only an undetailed drawing of a book with "P" on the cover and the time "3:00". After a second he comes to a silent realization.

INT. SCHOOL LIBRARY

JJ's watch tells us it is 3:00 as he enters the school library, discretely looking around with a suspicious expression on his face. Taylor and Tom are nowhere to be found. He pulls the note out of his pocket and examines it again.

JJ

"P"...

He heads over to the nonfiction section and makes his way down the row books until he finds the "P" authors. He looks around again to find no one.

JJ (V.O.)

I had to figure out what else could
"P" possibly mean. Easier said than
done.

JJ's eyes catch a nearby sign. It reads "Can't find what you're looking for? Try the Public Library!" The celebration behind this realization is short-lived as he rushes from the library.

INT. PUBLIC LIBRARY - THAT AFTERNOON

J.J. hurriedly enters the public library. He looks at his watch to see it is 3:30. He looks around and finds Tom alone in a room with Taylor. He peers through a bookshelf and takes a picture but his vision is suddenly blocked by another girl, Hannah.

HANNAH

(honored in a ditzzy
fashion)

Hey! Are you working on my case?

JJ

Uhh yeah. Now get out of here.

He moves down the bookcase to regain his view.

HANNAH

(loud, fake whisper)

Well what have you found? That's the girl, you know.

JJ

I know. Now scram.

Through the bookcase we see Tom leaving the room. Taylor is left alone with her laptop. JJ rushes in, leaving Hannah behind.

INT. STUDY ROOM (CONT'D)

JJ enters. Taylor seems a little confused.

JJ

Mind if I sit here?

She closes her laptop.

TAYLOR

Actually I was just leaving.

JJ

(ignoring this)

May I ask what your business is with Tom?

TAYLOR

I'm... just helping him out.

(sarcastically)

Any other questions, Sherlock?

She stands up and grabs her things.

JJ

Well, yes, actually.

TAYLOR

Well I don't have time for them. Sorry.

She leaves the room with her laptop.

EXT. PUBLIC LIBRARY

JJ walks out, deep in thought. A pair of eyes watch him. JJ unknowingly continues on his path. A figure suddenly

grabs him. It is MR. HAHN. He pushes him to a secluded area.

HAHN
(accusingly)
Can I ask what you're doing following Taylor around?

JJ
What? No, I'm on a case. I'm following Tom, not Taylor.

Hahn gives a confused, slightly suspicious look.

HAHN
I'm gonna need you to come with me.

Hahn pushes JJ off screen.

INT. HAHN'S OFFICE

JJ sits across the desk from Hahn, who is pacing.

HAHN
(angrily)
Do you have ANY idea what you interrupted today?

JJ
What are you talking about?

HAHN
JJ... Have you heard of Xavier Grades?

Hahn sits down at his desk. JJ gives him a look.

The frame freezes.

JJ (V.O.) (CONT'D)
The truth was, everyone had heard of the this guy. Rumors have been floating around about some sort of "master hacker" doing his work under the alias of "Xavier Grades" since freshman year, but most of us believe it to be a myth.

The frame unfreezes.

JJ
That's just a dumb rumor.

HAHN

That's what we thought, until 6 months ago, when we really started investigating. Our research shows that Xavier Grades is real and has been cheating the system by sneaking around for some time now.

JJ

Interesting...

HAHN

You see we have a very strong lead on Taylor, the girl at the library today. All we need is some solid evidence. Now, Taylor was about to sign into X2 when you interrupted. You ruined our chances at cracking this case.

JJ

Is this when I'm supposed to apologize?

HAHN

(Beat)

We need a student to help us out, JJ...

JJ

Well let me help you out. Dylan Gotseki. The kid with his own lair in the history wing. If anyone in this school is hacking the system, it's him.

HAHN

Actually, we know it's not Dylan. Dylan works for us.

JJ

That does not surprise me.

HAHN

Anyway, your little stunt today got us thinking about what an asset you might be to us.

JJ

No dice. I don't work for administration. I'm no snitch. I work for the students.

HAHN

Well that's cute JJ, but the one
issue with that?

JJ gives a questioning look as Hahn leans in closer.

HAHN (CONT'D)

You don't have a choice.

JJ stares coldly back at Hahn, remaining confrontational.

HAHN (CONT'D)

Either you take the case or we shut
your little detective business
down.

JJ keeps his icy stare, but does not say anything, silently
giving in.

HAHN (CONT'D)

That's what I thought. Xavier
Grades needs to be caught by Friday
at 2:05. That's when grades close.
Good luck.

JJ

How about some help? Maybe some
access to grades?

HAHN

That information is confidential.

JJ angrily sighs and starts making his way out.

HAHN (CONT'D)

Well this isn't exactly what you're
looking for, but you might find it
useful.

Hahn hands JJ a folder. JJ takes it and angrily storms out
of the office, mumbling something.

INT. JJ'S OFFICE

JJ throws the folder down onto his desk, plops into his
chair, and sighs heavily. After a moment's rest he leans
forward and opens the folder, discouraged. Inside is simply
a table of X2 usage per student.

JJ (V.O.)

Hahn gave me a list of X2 usage per
student. You'd think he would help
me out with something that would
actually give me some answers.

JJ

This is useless.

He rolls his eyes as he pins it to his board, covering the picture of Tom.

TITLE CARD: WEDNESDAY: 2 DAYS REMAIN

INT. HALLWAY

JJ walks down the hallway with a purpose.

JJ (V.O.)

I figured I would start with the most technologically knowledgeable person I know. Dylan Goteski. Even if he is a stooge of the administration, the kid sure knows computers.

JJ arrives at Dylan's Lair (the yearbook room). He knocks on the door, which opens upon his doing so.

INT. DYLAN'S LAIR

JJ peers through the half-open door and enters. He looks over to see the top of a head visible above a half-circle of computer monitors. His vision is quickly obstructed by two boys. They are identical twins and they are dressed exactly the same. These are the BOLSEN TWINS. Their names are ANDREW and BRIAN.

JJ

I came to talk to Dylan.

He points to the mysterious head behind the computers.

JJ (CONT'D)

And you are?

BOLSEN TWINS

We're the Bolsen Twins.

ANDREW

And the boss is busy right now...

BRIAN

So you can talk to us...

BOLSEN TWINS

(In-sync)

Or you can get out.

JJ looks back and forth from the twins, sizing them up.

JJ
 This is highly confidential matter
 which I need to discuss with Dylan
 (beat) alone.

The twins look at each other as if they are considering this argument.

BOLSEN TWINS
 (In-sync)
 Too bad.

JJ, clearly fed up with the twins, attempts to push through them to get to Dylan's desk. However, the second he begins to move forward the twins move as one to push him away with a lot of force. JJ falls backwards into a chair, clearly not expecting that reaction. He sighs and slumps his shoulders in defeat as he gives in to the Twins' wishes.

JJ
 (annoyed)
 Alright. Well what I can tell YOU
 is that Xavier Grades is real. And
 its my job to catch them.

BOLSEN TWINS
 (In-sync)
 And?

JJ
 (pointing at Dylan)
 And I think he has the equipment to
 help me out... And I'm willing to
 offer my services in return.

They look over to Dylan, who is still hidden. His hand beckons JJ over to the computer. As JJ approaches, his face is revealed. Dylan is a mouse-like, classic computer nerd.

DYLAN
 I'm listening.

JJ
 I need all the information you have
 on Xavier Grades.

DYLAN
 Funny you should ask,
 administration asked for the same
 thing. I put it on a flash drive.

JJ

So you already have it then.

DYLAN

Well, this flash drive was stolen from me not long ago.

JJ

Yeah, and I found it for you.

DYLAN

I thought so too, until I went to look through it.

(he starts typing)

Instead of the information on Xavier Grades, I found what I THOUGHT was a blank flash drive. But then I dug a little deeper. I found that these pictures had been previously erased from it.

The screen shows pictures from a Dance Company rehearsal. JJ's eyes light up in recognition.

JJ

Oh, I know who this belongs to...

INT. JJ'S OFFICE - FLASHBACK

The students crowd in to retrieve their objects. MIRANDA is first in line. She is wearing a bizarre outfit from Dance Company. She grabs a flash-drive, checking for something. A close up reveals that there are no markings.

INT. DYLAN'S LAIR - PRESENT

JJ looks down at Dylan's flash drive, which has a mark where Miranda was looking.

JJ

So you want me to get yours back?

DYLAN

Precisely.

JJ sighs, annoyed.

DYLAN (CONT'D)

What? Can't handle it?

JJ

Of course I can handle it. I just never liked going to the circus.

INT. AUDITORIUM - DANCE COMPANY REHEARSAL

JJ enters the auditorium and looks around. He is greeted by a circus-like scene as Dance Company girls dressed in outlandish outfits contort their bodies in and out of his way as he walks down the aisle. The auditorium lighting is more colorful than usual and a strange carnival song plays over the scene. The girls stare and grab at JJ as he passes, but none follow him. JJ makes his way down the aisle and to Miranda's office/dressing room backstage.

INT. MIRANDA'S OFFICE

JJ pushes back the curtain and sees that Miranda is nowhere to be found. This room is significantly darker than the rest of the auditorium, lit only by a few unconventional, decorative lights and a strand or two of christmas lights. Through the darkness we can see that the room is filled with an array of colors, all of which are dulled by the lack of light.

JJ starts snooping around the room in search of the flash drive. On a table sits a bouquet of flowers. He picks up a bag and starts going through it when Miranda suddenly bursts in.

MIRANDA

HEY!

JJ subtly puts the bag down.

JJ

Ah, Miranda. I'm JJ Wells, student detective. How are you?

MIRANDA

(not quite angry)

What are you doing here?

JJ

Investigating.

Miranda swings her leg over the chair/stool in an unusual fashion, like a circus character (similarly to the girls from the previous scene acted) and sits.

MIRANDA

Investigating what...?

JJ

It's about your friend Taylor.

MIRANDA

Yeah. We've been best friends for

(MORE)

MIRANDA (CONT'D)

years...What about her?

Miranda picks up a picture frame of her and Taylor at a young age. She looks at it for a moment and puts it back down. JJ seems to have noticed something important.

JJ

Any idea what she's been up to lately?

He makes his way over to the picture frame.

MIRANDA

We actually haven't been talking too much...lately... Why?

JJ hold the picture frame. Behind where it once stood sits the flash drive.

JJ

Just hoping you could shed some light on my investigation.

He looks around in search for a reason to change the subject. He sees the bouquet.

JJ (CONT'D)

Who sent you these flowers?

He picks up the note attached to the flowers. It is signed "#7"

MIRANDA

My boyfriend... Listen, this has been great and all, but I have to rehearse. Why don't I show you out?

She leads him out of the room. JJ is uneasy, as he didn't get a chance to grab the flash drive. Despite this, he doesn't seem to object.

INT. AUDITORIUM

Returning to the colorful lights and music, Miranda and JJ come out from behind the curtain. She stands there with her arms crossed and watches him go. After a moment she lets out a big sigh and walks in the opposite direction. Another moment passes and JJ re-enters the office and exits a second later, slipping the flash drive into his pocket.

INT. DYLAN'S LAIR

There is a knock on the door. JJ enters proudly.

BOLSEN TWINS
You got it?

JJ
Wasn't too hard.

BOLSEN TWINS
The boss will be...

DYLAN
(interrupting)
Excellent work, JJ...

Dylan leans back in his chair.

DYLAN (CONT'D)
I truly wasn't expecting this kind
of success.

JJ
So now what do you have for me?

DYLAN
First things first. Hand over my
flash drive.

JJ does as he's told.

DYLAN (CONT'D)
Let me just print this out for you.

A packet begins printing.

DYLAN (CONT'D)
So the real question is... Why did
she take my flash drive in the
first place?

JJ
Relax, they're identical. I'm sure
she just mixed them up.

The report finishes printing and Dylan hands over the packet
containing a list of names who's grades have been altered.

JJ
(flipping through)
It's just a list of names.

DYLAN
It's a list of students who have
had their grades changed. And the
dates and times it happened.

JJ

Interesting... I still find it hard to believe that YOU aren't the hacker, Dylan.

DYLAN

That's absurd. I want the hacker caught as much as you. These are my computers. I don't like anyone messing with them.

JJ

Well, we'll know soon enough.

INT. JJ'S OFFICE

JJ sits at his desk, distraught, looking through Dylan's packet. A clock ticks, reminding JJ that time is running out.

JJ (V.O.)

One thing I've learned in my years is that there is no such thing as a coincidence. Any trend is important. Never a matter of chance.

JJ continues flipping through the packet. He notices something, flipping back to previous pages and checking for a trend.

JJ

Tom...?

JJ (V.O.)

Tom's name appeared on the list on over 20 separate occasions. Now we're getting somewhere.

INT. HALLWAY

JJ looks around suspiciously as he approaches Tom's locker. On his locker hangs a poster reading "Good Luck Tom!" so we know that this is the correct one. He opens it and picks up the first binder he sees. Inside is a test with a poor grade. He hears a voice and looks up to see Tom and his friends down the hallway. He shuts the locker and slyly shuffles down to another random one, binder still in hand.

TOM

You guys ready for the big game tonight?

His friends answer in the affirmative as Tom looks in his locker, confused.

TOM
Where's my binder?

TOM'S FRIEND
Did you leave it in class?

Tom's anger is building.

TOM
No, I left it right here.

He looks around to his friends and notices JJ nearby.

TOM
What are you lookin' at?

Tom approaches JJ. He is wearing his football jersey, which is #7.

JJ
(to himself)
Number 7...

INT. FLASHBACK

JJ hold the note from Miranda's office signed #7.

INT. HALLWAY - PRESENT

TOM (CONT'D)
(remembering)
I saw you watching me the other day, too.

Tom slams the locker shut, revealing what JJ has been hiding.

TOM (CONT'D)
Is that my binder?

JJ
What are you doing with Taylor?

TOM
What are you talking about? And what the hell are you doing with my stuff?

JJ
I'm talking about Taylor. I've seen you sneaking around with her.

(MORE)

JJ (CONT'D)

What have you two been doing?

There is a pause. Tom snatches his binder from JJ then addresses his friends.

TOM

I'll see you guys at practice.

Tom pushes JJ into a corner and gets right in his face as his friends walk away, looking back and whispering to one another. He is very angry.

TOM (CONT'D)

Listen, kid, I have no idea who you are, but you're gonna regret that. She's helping me get some grades up, that's all. No one needed to know. So why don't you back off?

JJ

That's all I needed to hear.

Tom shakes his head in frustration and grabs JJ by the shirt, then winds up and punches JJ in the face. Everything goes black as JJ is knocked out.

TITLE CARD: THURSDAY: 1 DAY REMAINS

INT. JJ'S OFFICE

JJ enters his office. He has a black eye from his encounter with Tom. He turns to the evidence board in which he has begun to make connections between people and events and draws a line between Taylor and Tom, signaling his acknowledgement of his newfound discovery. He sits at his desk with evidence spread out in front of him. He takes a deep breath and dives back into Dylan's packet. He looks back and forth between it and a calendar while speaking.

JJ (V.O.)

Upon further inspection I found another little tidbit of interesting information. Tom's name appeared on the list every day 5 during lunch block without fail. There were other days sprinkled in between, but that wasn't important. Today is day 4, meaning tomorrow is day 5. This could be big. I need more information though... but I know just the guy for it. And this guy owes me a favor.

JJ picks up and dials his phone. It begins ringing.

INT. ERKER'S OFFICE

We see a new setting. It is messy and disorganized. The phone on the desk rings a couple times but the sound is muffled by a pile of junk. A hand reaches over, knocking the stuff aside, and picks up the phone.

ERKER

Hello?

We now see Erker's face.

INT. JJ'S OFFICE

JJ

Erker? I need a favor?

INT. ERKER'S OFFICE

ERKER

What do you want?

INT. JJ'S OFFICE

JJ

I need a report of the school computer usage, every day 5 around lunch block for the past...

(he takes a second to consider)

Uhh... Three months. That should be enough.

INT. ERKER'S OFFICE

Erker peers around his office at all the junk

ERKER

That might take a while. I'll need about week, minimum.

INT. JJ'S OFFICE

JJ

I don't have a week. I need it by tomorrow.

INT. ERKER'S OFFICE

ERKER

Well then I can't help you.

INT. JJ'S OFFICE

JJ lets out a heavy sigh.

JJ

What about a month? Can I get a report on the last month?

INT. ERKER'S OFFICE

He flips through some paper on his desk as he speaks.

ERKER

Yeah... Yeah I can get you a month. I'll have it on your desk by 12:00 tomorrow, sound good?

JJ

(over phone)

Sounds great.

ERKER

And if anybody asks... I had no part in this, you hear?

INT. JJ'S OFFICE

JJ

If anybody asks, as far as I'm concerned you don't even know how to open your e-mail.

As he hangs up there is a knock on the door. Mr. Hahn enters. JJ sighs, as he was ready to leave, but shakes it off.

JJ

Mr. Hahn, take a seat.

Mr. Hahn sits. It is strange seeing the roles switched like this with JJ behind the big desk, and Hahn seems to notice that.

HAHN

So how's the case going? I haven't really heard from you.

JJ

It's going.

HAHN

Going... well?

JJ

It's just going.

HAHN

Well, JJ, you realize your deadline is tomorrow?

JJ

(annoyed)

I know.

HAHN

This is easily the most important case you've ever taken. Do you have any evidence?

JJ

That information is confidential.

Hahn sees what JJ has done here, thinking back to their first meeting.

HAHN

Well you better get crackin' because I was serious. If you don't catch Xavier Grades with solid evidence, then this business you have going is getting shut down.

This reminder angers JJ.

JJ

I know. I remember.

HAHN

Well hopefully I'll be seeing you tomorrow.

Hahn stands and exits. JJ sits in his chair, enraged.

TITLE CARD - FRIDAY: THE FINAL DAY

INT. SCHOOL LIBRARY

JJ enters the school library wearing the disguise of a large mustache and a cowboy hat. He makes his way to a low bookshelf with a view of the computers.

JJ (V.O.)

After my last little encounter, I figured I better not show myself so openly. I quickly found what I was hoping to see, and that was Taylor.

Taylor sits at a computer with X2 open.

JJ (V.O.)

Not exactly sneaky of her, but I'll
take whatever evidence I can get.

Hannah strolls into the library and is making her way to a computer when she spots JJ. At first she doesn't recognize him but upon realization, she runs up to him.

HANNAH

Are you working on my case?! Is
that why you're in disguise?
That's so exciting!

JJ

(quiet but forceful)
Get out of here, Hannah! You're
gonna blow my cover.

HANNAH

What kind of evidence have you
gathered?

INT. FLASHBACK

-- JJ holds the note in Miranda's office signed "#7"

-- Tom approaches JJ wearing the #7 jersey.

INT. LIBRARY - PRESENT

JJ winces, as he remembers getting punched in the face.

JJ

(hesitant)
I haven't.

HANNAH

What...?

JJ

I have more important fish to fry
than your silly little boyfriend
problems.

HANNAH

I should have known you couldn't do
it. Looks like you have let a case
go cold.

She storms off to a computer. Through the bookcase, JJ
takes a picture.

INT. JJ'S OFFICE

JJ enters his office, which is in a state of disarray. He looks around, surprised. A figure grabs him and throws him to the ground. This is TUG. He is much larger than JJ.

TUG
Looking for this?

Tug holds Erker's report. JJ takes a second then gets up as he begins to speak.

TUG (CONT'D)
Back off.

JJ
And who are you?

Tug gets in JJ's face.

TUG
I said back off.

JJ
Yeah, I got that part.

TUG
You crossed a line. And I don't
wanna see your ugly mug watching us
again, understand?

JJ doesn't immediately say anything.

JJ (V.O.)
I decided I must have been getting
warmer if Taylor was sending thugs
after me.

When JJ does not respond, Tug, report in hand, shoves JJ to the ground once more and leaves. JJ gets up, dusting himself off.

INT. MIRANDA'S OFFICE

The screen is black.

JJ (V.O.)
Well if you don't know where to go
next, you might as well go back to
the basics: the best friend. But
now I have the upper-hand. I have
some dirt on her.

Miranda's office fades in. JJ sits on a stool, waiting for Miranda. Miranda pulls back the curtain and sees JJ waiting.

MIRANDA

Back again?

JJ

What is Taylor doing with Tom?

MIRANDA

Most people start with "hello", but she's his tutor... Don't go around telling everybody though, he's embarrassed about it. Why do you ask?

JJ

Because I've been duped...
I know you're dating Tom.

Miranda's eyes widen.

MIRANDA

How do you know that...?

JJ picks up the note on the flowers.

JJ

It wasn't hard. #7.

MIRANDA

Nobody can know.

JJ

I know, I know. It's because he's cheating on Hannah with you, isn't he?

MIRANDA

You can't say a word. Hannah would ruin me if she ever found out.

JJ

I won't say anything...

Miranda breathes a sigh of relief.

JJ (CONT'D)

...if...

MIRANDA

If what?

JJ

If you tell me everything you know about Taylor.

MIRANDA

I have no idea what you're talking about.

JJ

Really? Because Hannah would find that very interesting. Taylor's been hacking, hasn't she?

MIRANDA

(conflicted)

...yes.

JJ

And that's why you took Dylan's flash drive. It wasn't due to confusion. You knew exactly which one was yours with that little mark you put on it. She wanted to cover her tracks. She knew the information on that thing might lead to her.

MIRANDA

She asked me to. I was doing her a favor... How did you know it was me?

JJ

Well we found your old Dance Company photos. On top of that you left a nice like mark on yours so you wouldn't mix them up.

Miranda feels guilty and is unsure of what to say.

JJ (CONT'D)

So, where can I find Taylor? Where does she do her dirty work?

MIRANDA

I don't know.

JJ

Hannah is only a call away.

MIRANDA

(hesitant)

Fine. She moves around. Today she'll be in the back of the library. The secluded area next to the computer lab.

Miranda appears distressed, feeling bad about ratting out her friend. JJ's face looks triumphant.

INT. LIBRARY

Taylor makes her way to the back of the library. She stops at a bookshelf, pretending to look at a book as she assesses the situation. As nobody is looking she slinks back into the NOVA NET computer lab.

INT. NOVA NET

Taylor looks at the clock to find that it is 1:00.

TAYLOR
(to herself)
O.K., I have an hour.

She goes to one of the computers, which is already on. She opens the internet, which shows X2. The screen changes to show HackerTyper.com. There is the sound of a muffled click of a camera, which surprises Taylor. She looks around to see nothing. She turns back to the computer and resumes hacking. A figure sneaks up behind Taylor.

JJ
Very sneaky, Taylor.

It is JJ. Taylor is surprised and scared.

JJ (CONT'D)
But you've been caught red-handed.

Taylor looks back and forth, then makes a run for the door in an attempt to escape. The boys come out of the wood-work and block her path. "The boys" being Mr. Hahn, Mr. Connor, and Mr. Imbusch.

INT. HAHN'S OFFICE

Taylor sits with her hands tied up. She has been caught red-handed. Hahn sits behind his desk, happy with JJ's work. JJ stands by the door, leaning on the door-frame.

HAHN
Well, congratulations, JJ. I should have had more faith in you.

JJ shrugs this compliment off.

JJ
All in a day's work. But I've got to go, I have someone to thank.

JJ exits the office.

INT. DYLAN'S LAIR

There is a knock on the door. JJ enters nodding to the Bolsen Twins as he makes his way over to Dylan.

JJ

So that report of yours...

DYLAN

Yeah, I know. I'm sorry I couldn't be of more help.

JJ

What do you mean?

DYLAN

It's just too bad you couldn't catch the hacker. I wanted them caught as much as you do. Nobody hacks into MY system.

JJ

I DID catch the hacker. It was Taylor. She's in Hahn's office as we speak.

DYLAN

Really? Because according to my system, grades are being changed right now.

JJ leans in as Dylan shows him on the monitor. There is an announcement.

MR. HAHN

(over loud-speaker)

Would JJ Wells report to Mr. Hahn's office immediately? Thank you.

INT. HAHN'S OFFICE

JJ enters. Taylor is still tied up in her chair. X2 is open on Hahn's computer.

HAHN

JJ, can you explain to me why the grades are still changing?

JJ

But we caught her...

HAHN

You simply caught A hacker. That wasn't your job. Xavier Grades is still out there.

JJ looks the clock.

JJ

2:04...

HAHN

And you're just about out of time.

They both watch the clock as the second hand hits 2:05.

HAHN

Well it seems that you've failed. I'll expect you to be out of your office by Monday.

JJ opens his mouth to defend himself but has nothing to say. He leaves, dejected.

INT. LOBBY

JJ walks slowly, dragging his feet and staring at the ground. He begins to loosen his tie as a sign of defeat. He looks up to see Tom, then quickly looks back down at his feet.

TOM

Are you kidding me?

JJ looks up.

TOM (CONT'D)

(in angry disbelief)

You're still following me around?

JJ just gives Tom an icy stare.

TOM (CONT'D)

And I got a question.

(pulling Erker's report
from his pocket)

What's this report got to do with me?

JJ takes the report from Tom.

JJ

(Suddenly interested)

Wait, how did you get this?

TOM

My buddy, Tug? He said you went down like a sack of bricks when he took it from you.

(he laughs)

Sound familiar?

JJ

You mean YOU sent Tug?

TOM

Yeah, who else would?

JJ

(to himself)

So if that wasn't Taylor...

TOM

Listen, I don't know why you've been so obsessed with my connection to Taylor, but she's just my tutor. It was supposed to be a secret until you started flappin' your gums. It's embarrassing.

As Tom was speaking, JJ was flipping through the report.

JJ

Wait a minute... Taylor wasn't changing your grades in X2, was she?

TOM

No? Well, she offered once, but I told her I had that taken care of.

JJ

So if you had your grades changed why did you need a tutor?

TOM

To make it look good.

JJ's eyes widen and he sprints off. Tom doesn't care enough to follow him.

INT. JJ'S OFFICE

JJ bursts in and stands at his desk. He opens a folder and begins looking through the report, comparing it to the packet he received from Dylan. He appears confused but his eyes soon widen. He looks up at his disguise. He has made a breakthrough.

JJ
(satisfied)

Yup.

JJ grabs the folder and as he rushes towards the door, he passes his coat hanger. He stops for a moment and grabs his hat and trench coat and then continues rushing out.

EXT. FOOTBALL FIELD

The football field fades in. JJ walks onto the field in no real hurry. Hannah sits on the bench near the 50 yard line. She seems to be in a relaxed mood until she sees JJ.

HANNAH
(sassy)
What are you doing here?

JJ
I've come to talk to you.

Hannah stands up and faces JJ. She stares at him expectantly, waiting for him to go on.

JJ (CONT'D)
It was pretty sneaky, what you did.

HANNAH
Huh?

JJ
Hiring me and all. But I understand now.

HANNAH
(playing dumb)
What are you talking about?

JJ
Give it up, Hannah. You were playing me all along. We both know you're Xavier Grades.

HANNAH
(over dramatic)
How dare you!

JJ
When you hired me, you didn't have your cheating boyfriend in mind. Your only target was his tutor. You knew he would lead me right to her. You knew Taylor was impeding on your business. She was your

(MORE)

JJ (CONT'D)

only true competition, and you needed to take her out. But you knew that sending me straight to Taylor would make you a suspect. You followed Taylor's hacking patterns. You did your dirty work every day 5 to keep me blind to your scheme. You were changing Tom's grades, not Taylor. I thought you were just a ditzzy girl annoying me, but in actuality you were making sure I was on Taylor's case.

Throughout the speech, flashes of evidence he points out appear, such as pictures he took, Tom being tutored by Taylor, Hannah watching them, Hannah walking out of JJ's office smiling, and Hannah walking in to the Library.

At the end of this speech, Hannah at first looks shocked, but then her countenance completely changes. Completely leaving behind her ditszy act, she becomes resigned and embraces her devious nature.

HANNAH

(insultingly)
You're forgetting one thing.

JJ

What's that?

HANNAH

Who do you think stole all those flash drives in the first place?

JJ

You did that?

HANNAH

Of course. I knew Dylan had been digging up some dirt, and I wanted to make sure my tracks were well covered.

JJ

(figuring it out as he goes)
And based on Dylan's report, you saw that Taylor was hacking too... And that's when you hired me!

HANNAH

(sarcastically)

(MORE)

HANNAH (CONT'D)

You ace detective, you.

JJ

So if you just wanted Dylan's flash drive, why did you take all of them?

HANNAH

Because. Take only Dylan's flash drive and all the thief's intentions are crystal clear. Take all the flash drives and nobody questions the thief's motives.

JJ

Very clever...

HANNAH

So how'd you figure it all out? What tipped you off in the end?

JJ

Your computer usage exactly matched the times X2 was hacked. I was blind to it the first time because I was focused in on Taylor.

HANNAH

Well, what are you gonna do about it? Grades have been posted.

JJ

(shrugs)

Nothing.

Hannah looks confused, she wasn't expecting JJ to admit defeat.

JJ (CONT'D)

I work for the students, not administration. I'm no snitch.

HANNAH

Well aren't they going to shut you down?

JJ

Administration could never truly shut me down. I'll be working under wraps here till the day we graduate.

Hannah nods, acknowledging she has been bested, and begins

walking away.

JJ (CONT'D)

So I guess I never have let a case
go cold, have I?

She stops, and looks over her shoulder at JJ, acknowledging what he has said, and continues on. JJ sits down on the bench and takes in scenery.

JJ (V.O.) (CONT'D)

My name is JJ Wells, P.I., student
detective... And I have and will
always work for the students of
this high school. They still come
to me, and I still give results.
And I have NEVER let a case go
cold.

FADE OUT