

WBUR's
THE MIDNIGHT REBELLION
CHAPTER 11 - SEEK THE SEAWALL
By Dean Russell

[MUX]

NARRATOR: You're listening to *The Midnight Rebellion*.

Chapter 11, "Seek the Seawall"

[MUX]

NARRATOR: A decision has been made. Joule knows where to go.

JOULE: Bright Seawall. The tide was going out. I'm sure of it.

NARRATOR: It has been a day and a night since they left the old sage. They ran from the bells. From the tins. They were lucky.

[SFX: Harbor waves.]

EXT. BOSTON HARBOR - NIGHT

NICO: Then why don't I feel lucky.

BUGGY: You never feel lucky.

NICO: We had to sneak away, which meant we couldn't get back to the canoe, and now we're stuck with this patched-up dinghy we scavenged from a sewer pipe. Oh, and also we're being hunted because of Stranger Girl over here.

JOULE: You could start using my name whenever you want.

NARRATOR: Things are tense. It is a moony night on the harbor. The waves roll. Joule and Nico row, while Buggy scans for tins.

JOULE: So what's the deal with Bright Seawall? We need a plan.

NICO: Our plan is to avoid not getting killed.

JOULE: Not helpful. Can you tell me anything about this place?

BUGGY: Well, it's a seawall. Apparently, they built it decades ago when the storms started getting bad. It was supposed to keep the city from flooding.

JOULE: Let me guess, it didn't work.

BUGGY: That's the problem with concrete walls. The water breaks through eventually. But Bright uses the remains as a border wall.

JOULE: Right. Because no one's allowed to leave the Sac.

NICO: Or enter. It's a lose-lose situation.

[SFX: Motor in the distance.]

JOULE: You all hear that?

[SFX: Motor gets louder]

NICO: Duck!

BUGGY: Duck like a duck boat or like duck our heads?

NICO: BOTH!

NARRATOR: Suddenly, a spotlight cuts across the water. They all hit the deck. [SFX: BOOM!] Joule finds herself smooshed between a wall of splinters, Nico's oar, and Buggy's unwashed feet.

JOULE: Ech.

BUGGY: Do you think they see us?

NICO: Mmm. I don't know. You did the camo well enough.

NARRATOR: The camo. Meaning the seaweed Buggy used to disguise the dinghy. Joule pulls some over her legs.

JOULE: What do we do if they find us?

BUGGY: We swim.

JOULE: But I can't swim.

BUGGY: Oh, right. I forgot.

NICO: Hold up. You can't swim? This is the Sac. It's half water.

JOULE: Yeah, well, you should really mention that in the travel brochure. Next time I'll bring swimmies.

NARRATOR: The spotlight sweeps overhead. Joule stiffens.

[SFX: Motor getting really close, kicks into high gear]

NARRATOR: The motor gets closer and closer and closer.

JOULE: (to self) Please don't see us, please don't see us ...

[SFX: Motor passes.]

JOULE: [exhales] That was close.

[SFX: Motor slows. Slow alarm starts.]

NICO: You were saying.

OFFICER 1 [TIN 1]: Attention, attention. You are in violation of Code 967 of the Bright Corporation. No unauthorized vessels within one nautical mile of the border. Put your hands in the air. Or else.

BUGGY: Squid suckers. We gotta go.

NARRATOR: All at once, Nico and Buggy are on their feet. The duck boat reverses course. Several flying tins take flight. Joule rises last, clinging to an oar. When a tin swoops, she swings.

[SFX: Oar hits tin, tin breaks and crashes.]

NICO: Not bad.

JOULE: Thanks. It's not a baseball bat, but close enough.

[SFX: MORE BUZZING]

NICO: Unfortunately, I don't think we can take them all. Which means we're jumping ship. Buggy, head for airport island. Stay under as much as you can.

JOULE: Not to make this about me, but what about me?

NICO: Take my hand.

JOULE: Um.

NICO: Just do it, Stranger Girl. Ready to jump?

BUGGY/JOULE: Yep. / No.

[SFX: SHOCKBOLTS!]

NICO: JUMP!

[SFX: Splash! UNDERWATER.]

NARRATOR: The water is cold. It knocks the air out of Joule.

JOULE (UNDERWATER): [MAKES NOISES]

NARRATOR: She writhes helplessly before Nico pulls her onto their back. Nico starts to swim down, but she pulls at them.

JOULE (UNDERWATER): [UP! UP!]

NICO (UNDERWATER): [ACKNOWLEDGES]

NARRATOR: Nico nods. They swim up. Buggy vanishes below.

[SFX: BREAKS SURFACE.]

JOULE: [DEEP BREATHS!]

NICO: You okay?

JOULE: (gasping) Yeah ... the cold ...

[SFX: Alarms again. Shockbolts charging.]

NARRATOR: The waves around them light up.

NICO: Uh-oh.

OFFICER 1 [TIN 1]: Ready!

JOULE: Uh-oh.

OFFICER 1 [TIN 1]: FIRE!

[SFX: Shockbolts! → Lightning!]

[MUX]

NARRATOR: I have to say, I really thought the seawall was the right choice. It's such a majestic idea, you know? *The seawall.*

Alas, you have reached a dead end. Time to rewind ...

[SFX: Rewind.]

... and go to Chapter 6, "Make for the Marsh."

Chapter 6, "Make for the Marsh."

Good luck. This is *The Midnight Rebellion.*

[CODA – TMR TIPS]

BUGGY: I got some Buggy facts for ya. Bright Seawall is made of concrete – what is called a gray seawall. Gray seawalls are

strong but stiff. When waves hit harder and higher, they often crash back and cause damage nearby.

Some coastal towns are growing *green seawalls*. *Green seawalls* use plants, rocks, oyster reefs, and rehabilitated marshes to slow waves down instead of fighting them. Help nature, help yourself.

And keep listening for more tips and more oceanic escapades. Up next: *Chapter 6, "Make for the Marsh."*

[CREDITS]

NARRATOR: *The Midnight Rebellion* is a production of WBUR in Boston. The series was created by Ben Brock Johnson and Dean Russell.

It was written and produced by Dean Russell.

It was directed by Emily Jankowski and Dean Russell.

Mix and sound design for this episode by Fred Greenhalgh.

Additional mix and sound by Mumble Media.

This episode is starring:

Basma Ayatte as Joule,

Jett Dinh as Buggy,

K. Zedric Acruz as Nico,

and me, Erik Ransom, as the narrator.

Samata Joshi is Managing Producer.

Paul Vaitkus is Production Manager.

Ben Brock Johnson is Executive Producer and WBUR's Director of Digital Audio.

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For a full list of cast and crew, visit our website:
wbur.org/themidnightrebellion.