

WBUR'S  
THE MIDNIGHT REBELLION  
CHAPTER 2 - GET HART  
Written by Dean Russell

[MUX]

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

Chapter 2, "Get Hart"

[MUX]

[SFX: HEARTBEAT mixed with imagined CLOCK TICKING - SWELLS TO...]

INT. SECOND FLOOR, GARAGE LAB - NIGHT (STORM)

[SFX: STORM, MACHINE NOISE.]

**JOULE:** Ahh!

**NARRATOR:** Lightning strikes just outside the window, shaking Joule to her senses. She blinks. The machine rattles.

**JOULE:** (self-critical, over noise) What am I doing?

**NARRATOR:** She stumbles back, away from the monstrous thing, away from the pocket watch inside. Her mother carried it everywhere.

**JOULE:** (over noise) It shouldn't be here. Something isn't right. I need to show Hart.

**NARRATOR:** The machine convulses, as if someone trapped inside is trying to reach her. She turns and tears open the door to the first level. Music blares on the radio below.

[SFX: Music blares on the radio.]

**JOULE:** (over noise) Hart? Hart? You have to come up here. Hart!?

**NARRATOR:** But the machine is not done with her. It rattles, whirs, crackles. It calls to her, whispering, *Be bold.*

**MACHINE (ROBOTIC) / MOM:** (whispering) Joule ... Joule ...

**NARRATOR:** The machine coils shoot blue veins of electricity into the air. The hairs on Joule's neck rise, and her toes tingle.

**MACHINE (ROBOTIC) / MOM:** (whispering) Joule ... Help me ...

**JOULE:** (over noise) Mom?

**NARRATOR:** And then the stormlight ... consumes her.

[SFX: Deafening CRACK! TOTALLY NUTS!]

#### INT. HOSPITAL - DAYS LATER

[SFX: Static fade, transition to hospital ambiance: beeps, muffled footsteps.]

**NARRATOR:** The next time Joule opens her eyes, she is staring at a half-empty cup of Jell-O. Hart spoons a glob into his mouth.

**HART:** (eating) Berry Blue. Want some?

**JOULE:** (weak) What?

**NARRATOR:** He sits in a comfy chair beside her bed, swinging his feet. A jiggly strand of blue dangles from his mouth.

**HART:** [slurps] It's yours. The Jell-O. I thought you wouldn't mind. You haven't exactly been eating.

**JOULE:** (weak) Hart, what's going on? What happened?

**NARRATOR:** She tugs at the coarse bedsheet. Nurses in scrubs hustle outside her door.

**JOULE:** (realizing) This is the hospital. How did I get here?

**HART:** (excited) Whoa, you mean you don't remember? It was wild. I had just come up the ladder and there you were. But the next second, BAM! Blinding light!

**JOULE:** I got struck by lighting?

**HART:** Close enough. The bolt went right through the window and hit one of mom's things. Still, you must've been close 'cause Dad thought you were dead. You smelled like fried chicken.

**NARRATOR:** Joule starts to feel hot. Outside the window, the Boston skyline shimmers under a too-bright sun.

**HART:** By the way, I did kind of tell Dad going to the lab was your idea. I don't think he'll ground you. 'Course, maybe you'd like being grounded. ... (explaining the joke) You know, like Lighting. *Grounded?* I crack myself up.

**[SFX: Clock ticks on wall.]**

**JOULE:** (urgent) Hart, what happened to the machine? You saw it, right?

**HART:** Uh, what?

**JOULE:** The machine! That big freaky thing. It was whirring. I felt like it was ... calling my name.

**HART:** Uh, that sounds cool and all, it's just that ...

**JOULE:** What?

**HART:** The garage kind of burned down. Whatever that machine was, it's a melted blob now. Sorry, Sailor.

**JOULE:** (disbelief) No. No, no, no.

**NARRATOR:** Her dad appears in the doorway. It's time to go home.

[SFX: Hospital beeping gets louder, then cuts out.]

[MUX]

**NARRATOR:** Ouch. I didn't think you'd hit a dead end so soon. After all, this is an adventure. Maybe try being a bit more ... adventurous?

Lucky for you, the story will not end here. We'll just ...

[SFX: Rewind.]

**NARRATOR:** ... rewind! And start again. So where were we? Ah, right, Joule stands before the machine. Should she step inside? Let's say yes. Continue to Chapter 3, "Into the Machine."

That's *Chapter 3, "Into the Machine."*

This is *The Midnight Rebellion*.

[CODA - TMR TIPS]

**JOULE:** Hey! Joule here. You might not know this, but my name is spelled J-O-U-L-E. A joule is a unit of energy. We use joules to measure everything from lightning bolts to how much power it takes to heat your home. My eco-friendly parents chose that name because climate change is, at its core, an energy story: how we create it and how we use too much of it.

To use fewer *joules*, try turning things off when you don't need them: the lights, an unused computer, or gaming console; and ask a grown-up about using less heat or air-conditioning at home. Many homes are kept hotter or colder than necessary.

For more tips and more Jell-O, keep listening. Up next: *Chapter 3, "Into the Machine."*

[CREDITS]

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

The series was written and produced by Dean Russell.

Directing by Emily Jankowski and Dean Russell.

Mix and sound design for this episode by Emily Jankowski.

Supporting mix and sound by Mumble Media.

This episode is starring:

Basma Ayatte as Joule,

Elohim Nycalove as Hart,

Erika Henningson as Dr. Elizabeth Green,

and Erik Ransom as the narrator.

Additional performances by Sarah Jiang.

Managing producer: Samata Joshi.

Production manager: Paul Vaitkus.

Executive producer: Ben Brock Johnson.

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See the full list of cast and crew at  
[wbur.org/themidnightrebellion](http://wbur.org/themidnightrebellion).