

WBUR's  
**THE MIDNIGHT REBELLION**  
**CHAPTER 8 - FIND THE WARDEN**  
By Dean Russell

[MUX]

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

Chapter 8, "Find the Warden"

[MUX]

**EXT. OUTSIDE BUNKER HILL WORK CAMP - DUSK**

[SFX: Riot outside Camp Bunker.]

**CROWD:** RIOTTTTTTT!!!

**NARRATOR:** If you have never been in a riot, I can assure you it is unpleasant.

**JOULE:** (shouting over noise) Ah! I can't stay here!

**NARRATOR:** As the prisoners rage against the tin-skinned officers, Joule covers her head and barrels through the melee toward the gate of the *Bunker Hill Work Camp for a Brighter Now*.

[SFX: Joule plowing through riot]

**JOULE:** (over noise) Oof! Ow! Ah!

**NARRATOR:** She cannot swim. There is no chance she will cross the river. And if she did, what then? Sixth grade does not teach students to survive the apocalypse. Maybe seventh grade does, but that isn't for a few months.

She reaches the gate, where Saugus is already, begging for entry.

[SFX: RATTLING GATE]

**SAUGUS:** Let me in! I'm not like these people! I want to work!

**NARRATOR:** Two headless Bright Safety Officers block the entrance, seeming wary of Saugus's intentions.

**OFFICER 1 [TIN 1]:** Stand back, tide rat.

**NARRATOR:** Saugus does as ordered. That is when one of the tins motions to Joule. Its blue bulbs flash, and it opens the gate.

**OFFICER 1 [TIN 1]:** You. Female child. Come with me.

**JOULE:** (cautious) Uh. Okay.

**[SFX: Gate opens.]**

**SAUGUS:** Oh, and me?! Can I come?

**NARRATOR:** Saugus steps up. But a blistering bolt blasts him back.

**[SFX: Electric shock hits Saugus. Saugus grunts and collapses.]**

**SAUGUS:** [screams!]

**JOULE:** (over din) Stop! Why did you do that?

**OFFICER 1 [TIN 1]:** Silence!

**NARRATOR:** The tin grabs her by the back of her neck and throws her into the camp.

**JOULE:** (over din, struggling) Owwww!

**NARRATOR:** And the gate locks behind her.

**[MUX]**

**EXT. BUNKER HILL WORK CAMP - CONT'D**

**[SFX: Joule pushed by a tin-skin away from the riot.]**

**NARRATOR:** Despite the roughness of these tins, Joule does her best to keep positive, and even tries to be gracious.

**JOULE:** Thank you, really, for letting me in. But I really just need to talk to the warden. Is she this way?

**OFFICER 1 [TIN 1]:** Keep moving.

**EXT. INTAKE ROOM, BUNKER HILL WORK CAMP - CONT'D**

**NARRATOR:** The work camp is itself, bleak and dusty. Unwashed families living under tarps watch her with glassy eyes. A foul reek simmers in the air. To Joule's relief, however, the tin officer leads her to a stout, concrete building that looks, more or less, like a headquarters. They head down a pea-green hallway past offices and, at the last door, the tin pushes Joule inside.

**JOULE:** Hey!

**[SFX: Door closes, locks.]**

**JOULE:** HEY!

**[SFX: Joule bangs on door.]**

**JOULE:** [ad-lib angry groan] Jerk. I just want someone to talk to. Anyone! Please!

**INTAKE:** Hello.

**[Joule gasps.]**

**NARRATOR:** Joule whips around and sees ... no one.

**JOULE:** (flat) Great.

**NARRATOR:** She is in a small, steel room with a reclining chair and a one-way mirror. A speaker is mounted in the ceiling.

**INTAKE:** On behalf of the Bright Corporation, allow me to say, "Welcome." We thank you for choosing to be a part of our happy and loyal workforce.

**JOULE:** I want to talk to the warden.

**INTAKE:** The warden is very busy. But don't fret, female child! You may speak with me. Now, please sit.

**JOULE:** Are you watching me on the other side of the glass?

**INTAKE:** I said, (scary) *please sit*.

**NARRATOR:** Joule does as asked. Immediately, metal cuffs snap around her wrists, ankles, and neck.

**JOULE:** Wait. What?

**INTAKE:** Please state your name.

**JOULE:** Um.

**INTAKE:** I can tell you are deciding whether to lie. I advise against it.

**JOULE:** Uh ... It's Joule. Joule Watts-Green.

**INTAKE:** Joule Watts-Green. Charged with trespassing.

**JOULE:** Trespassing?

**INTAKE:** Intertidal Sacrifice Zone 617 is owned and operated by the Bright Corporation. All non-Bright citizens are forbidden from the premises. Please answer the following questions so we may determine your punishment.

**JOULE:** Please! I need to speak with a human!

**INTAKE:** Question one: How many horns does a unicorn have?

**JOULE:** I— what?

**INTAKE:** How many horns does a unicorn have? Refusing to answer will be considered incorrect.

**JOULE:** And what happens if I get it wrong?

**[SFX: BUZZ!]**

**JOULE:** Ow! You shocked me!

**INTAKE:** Incorrect. The answer is, unicorns are not real.

**JOULE:** What does this have to do with anything? Let me go!

**INTAKE:** Question 2: Is carbon dioxide a pollutant?

**JOULE:** Uh. Yes, it's bad for the Earth. You know, *climate change*.

**[SFX: BUZZ!]**

**JOULE:** OW!

**INTAKE:** Incorrect. Climate change is a lie. Question 3: Who caused the Midnight War?

**JOULE:** I've never heard of it

**[SFX: BUZZZZZZZ! Joule yelps!]**

**JOULE:** AHHHH! (beat) [catching breath]

**[SFX: Long beat. MECHANICAL ARM moves.]**

**NARRATOR:** Suddenly, a robotic arm folds out of the ceiling.

**JOULE:** No, no no no.

**NARRATOR:** It grabs Joule and forces her mouth open before she can even scream.

**JOULE:** [ad-lib yelling with mouth forced open]

**NARRATOR:** Another arm emerges. At its end, something squirms. A mechanical beetle. Its pincers click fiercely.

**INTAKE:** Prepare for your tracker.

**[SFX: Metal PINCERS CLICK. Joule struggles.]**

**INTAKE:** Struggling will make only the pain worse, Joule Watts-Green. Open wide. And, remember: Be Bright, be right!

**[MUX]**

**NARRATOR:** Oof. Unfortunate. Looks like we've found ourselves at a dead end. But have no fear! That is what redos are for! Let's ...

**[SFX: Rewind]**

**NARRATOR:** ... turn back the clock and start again. So where were we? Ah, yes. Joule is in the middle of a riot, trying to decide what to do next. I suggest you go to Chapter 9, "Swim for It."

That's *Chapter 9, "Swim for It."*

Better luck next time. This is *The Midnight Rebellion*.

**[CODA – TMR TIPS]**

**JOULE:** So this is freaky: I was just quizzed by an evil voice that mixed facts with made-up stuff like unicorns, and it lied about carbon pollution. That's confusing on purpose!

Some people in your time spread mixed-up messages about climate change too, even though scientists agree that carbon dioxide and other greenhouse gasses are warming our planet. So if something sounds strange, ask questions. Search for the facts and spread the truth. You probably won't have to swallow a beetle if you do.

And keep listening for more tips and more bugs. Up next: *Chapter 9, "Swim for It."*

**[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 David Tatasciore.

Additional mix and sound by Mumble Media.

This episode is starring:

Basma Ayatte as Joule,

Jay Preston as Saugus,

and me, Erik Ransom, as the narrator.

Additional performances by Giselle Fernandez and Emmanuel Chumaceiro.

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