

WBUR's
THE MIDNIGHT REBELLION
CHAPTER 15 - JOULE, ABOARD
By Dean Russell

[MUX]

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

Chapter 15, "Joule, Aboard"

[MUX]

EXT. DOCKS, BRIGHT FACTORIES CAMPUS - CONT'D (FROM CH12)

[SFX: *DREAMLIKE REVERB*: Final scene from Chapter 12. PIRATES V. TINS (ROBOTS); MELEE! Clanking, fighting, grunting, etc.]

NICO (REVERB): DON'T LET BRIGHT WIN! KEEP GOING!

[SFX: SHARP CUT TO - SHIP HORN!]

EXT. SHIPPING VESSEL SIDE - DAY

[SFX: Aboard a large shipping vessel, on the ocean, steam vents]

NARRATOR: Joule is aboard. All she can see in her head are the faces of her friends left behind, but she is ... aboard.

JOULE: Nico said to keep going. So that's what I'll do.

NARRATOR: Leaving the machine in Bright's metallic hands would spell doom for all.

So Joule climbs the anchor chain. She scurries across the deck.

[SFX: climbing ... scurries across deck ... crawls into a vent]

EXT./INT. VENT, SHIPPING VESSEL DECK - DAY

NARRATOR: ... and slips into a candy cane-shaped vent.

JOULE: Oof. It's hot in here.

NARRATOR: She watches silently as tins march by. She waits for her moment. She waits and waits ... and waits.

JOULE: [sigh]

NARRATOR: The day waxes on, the city fades from view, and then there is nothing but ocean and the blistering eye of the sun.

JOULE: I wish these tins would leave before I sweat to death.

[SFX: Vent activates, rumbles]

JOULE: What was that?

NARRATOR: The vent begins to rumble and belch steam.

JOULE: This isn't good.

NARRATOR: Joule reaches for the opening, but her skin is slick with sweat. She loses her grip ... and slides into the pipe.

[SFX: Joule SLIDES DOWN VENT, GRABBING FOR PURCHASE]

JOULE: (grabbing) No! Nononono!

NARRATOR: Her fingers seek purchase, yet there is none. The angle sharpens. She is in freefall on a waterslide with no water. The shaft is so hot it scalds her arms. She sees an opening ahead. She shoots out ...

JOULE: WAHHHHH!!!

[SFX: Free fall]

JOULE: OOF. [coughs] Ow.

INT. ENGINE ROOM, SHIPPING VESSEL - CONT'D

NARRATOR: The room she lands in is pitch dark and somehow hotter, the air so thick it weighs on her. Dust forms an acrid paste in her mouth. (beat) Joule feels around her.

[SFX: JOULE COUGHS, SMACKS LIPS, ROCKS CLATTERING]

NARRATOR: She picks up a rough rock.

JOULE: It's coal. I'm sitting on a lot of coal. Is this cargo?

[SFX: ALARM! CONVEYOR BELT MOVES]

NARRATOR: Suddenly the floor moves like a conveyor belt. A very large one. Joule tries to stand, but the piles of coal shift underfoot. She falls again and again, losing her way.

JOULE: I think I see something.

NARRATOR: She feels the conveyor jerk left.

JOULE: OOF!

NARRATOR: And that is when Joule realizes where she is ...

JOULE: This is the engine room.

NARRATOR: She stares down a straightaway ending at a monstrous, red-hot, flaming mouth. The belt dumps coal into the furnace.

JOULE: Oh no. I'm about to become fuel. (beat) HELP! HELP!

NARRATOR: The heat spikes. She can smell her hair smoking.

[SFX: FURNACE ROARS , the BELT ZIPS, then MECHANICAL ARM MOVES]

JOULE: I should've jumped ship. This was a bad idea.

NARRATOR: Then, just as she prepares for her fate, a blue-lighted mechanical arm appears from above.

JOULE: What?

[SFX: Mechanical arm. Furnace.]

NARRATOR: It seizes her.

JOULE: Ah!

TIN 1 (ROBOTIC): [mechanical noise] TARGET ACQUIRED.

NARRATOR: The arm whisks her away.

JOULE: AHHH!

NARRATOR: She is a prisoner of Bright. Her story is over.

[MUX]

NARRATOR: So sorry. It seems we have reached a dead end. But if you like, we could ...

[SFX: Rewind]

NARRATOR: ... rewind and make the choice to ditch the machine and save Nico and Buggy. Sound good? Select Chapter 13, "Jump Ship."

That's *Chapter 13, "Jump Ship."*

This is *The Midnight Rebellion.*

[CODA]

JOULE: Joule here. So, it's really hot inside the ship, right? I get woozy. My head spins. My skin is sticky with sweat. That's my body waving a big red flag. "Hey! This is heat sickness!"

When it's too hot, your body can get overwhelmed. Feeling clammy, crampy, confused, or weak? Stop, cool down, and get help. Even heroes have to listen to their bodies.

Keep listening for more tips and more sea voyages. Up next: Chapter 13, "Jump Ship."

[CREDITS]

BASMA: *The Midnight Rebellion* is a production of WBUR in Boston.

Created by Ben Brock Johnson and Dean Russell.

Written and produced by Dean Russell.

Directed by Emily Jankowski and Dean Russell.

Mix and sound design for this episode by Cara Ehlenfeldt.

Additional post-production by Mumble Media.

This episode is starring ...

Me, Basma Ayatte, as Joule,

Jett Dinh as Buggy,

K. Zedric Acruz as Nico,

and ... Erik Ransom as the narrator.

Additional performances by Giselle Fernandez.

Managing Producer: Samata Joshi.

Production Manager: Paul Vaitkus.

Director of Digital Audio: Ben Brock Johnson.

Funding provided in part by the Arthur Vining Davis Foundations.

See the full list of cast and crew at wbur.org/midnight.

[MUX]

[***MIDROLL***]

[MUX]

NARRATOR: Welcome back to The Midnight Rebellion. If you are listening to this, you have gone too far. Maybe you're looking at the progress bar and thinking, "Hey, why is there so much time left?" Don't worry about that. There's nothing here but music. You should continue to, Chapter 13, Jump Ship. That's Chapter 13, Jump Ship.

[MUX]

NARRATOR: I'm serious. This is the end of this chapter. No more story here, I promise. You should continue to, Chapter 13, Jump Ship.

[MUX]

NARRATOR: Are you still listening? You should continue to, Chapter 13, jump ship.

[MUX]

NARRATOR: Okay. I tried to warn you. Enjoy the music. I guess I'll see you in the next chapter. That's chapter 13. Jump ship.

[MUX]

NARRATOR: This is the Midnight Rebellion.