

WBUR's
THE MIDNIGHT REBELLION
CHAPTER 19 - CAPE COD BAY
By Dean Russell

[MUX]

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

Chapter 19, "Cape Cod Bay"

[MUX]

EXT. CAPE COD BAY - NIGHT

[SFX: Big waves, kids in a dinghy, rowing]

NARRATOR: The black water rises and falls like a giant's chest. Joule, Nico, and Buggy, are somewhere beyond the Sac, beyond Bright Seawall, in a leaky dinghy, chasing a voice.

[SFX: Radio noise]

BUGGY: (not thrilled) Welp. Got a signal again.

NEWSCASTER (RADIO): *The West Antarctic Ice Sheet is collapsing*
...

NARRATOR: Three days have passed since their flight from the rebels' Home Base. The secret passage took them to an old city park and, from there, they took a route Cutthroat had told Joule about. They swam through a flooded tunnel out of the Sac, and then scavenged a boat. It all went smoothly. But decoding the messages ...

NEWSCASTER (RADIO): ... *West Antarctic Ice Sheet* ...

NARRATOR: ... not so much.

JOULE: Ugh! I don't get it. I know we're missing something.

[SFX: Radio cuts out]

NICO: We've been over this. We can't figure out the code, so we do the next best thing.

BUGGY: It *does* make sense that the closer we get to your mom, the stronger the signal.

JOULE: It just feels like we're missing something. Where are we heading? Southeast. And the messages said *North* Carolina and *West* Antarctic. Something doesn't add up.

NARRATOR: Annoyed, Joule drops the oars and peers into the dark. The city behind them is long gone from view. There are only the stars and the rolling waves of Cape Cod Bay.

JOULE: Plus, I'm worried about the rebels. I don't feel good about leaving them.

NICO: None of us do. But you heard Cutthroat. Bright's after you. It's better for the rebels if we *don't* go back ... even if we never find Sky Island.

JOULE: Don't say that. You're always so pessimistic.

NICO: Not pessimistic. *Realistic*. Look around. There's literally nothing out here.

BUGGY: Um. I think I see something.

NARRATOR: Buggy points east. A mile ahead and barely visible, a dozen enormous poles jut out from the sea.

[SFX: Groaning metal, whooshing.]

NICO: What are those?

BUGGY: I can't tell. They could be radio towers.

JOULE: I don't think so. Look at the tops.

NARRATOR: Then Joule realizes what she's seeing: blades.

JOULE: They're wind turbines. Huge ones.

NARRATOR: They paddle the distance and cautiously enter the field of windmills. (beat) But something feels wrong. The masts are bent and broken and striped with rust. The blades rattle and screech.

NICO: No one's used those in a lonnnng time. They look ready to collapse.

[SFX: Windmills groaning, creaking, wrenching loudly]

JOULE: I think we should turn around now.

BUGGY: What about the signal? It was coming from here.

JOULE: Maybe it's bouncing off them. I don't know. We can figure it out later. But these are making me nervous.

NICO: Yeah. I'll take us out of here.

[SFX: Windmill starts to break]

NARRATOR: They hear it first. The nearest turbine starts to fall, like a slow timber. Nico paddles, but the swell is strong, and it pushes them back under the leaning pillar.

[SFX: Dinghy HITS turbine]

JOULE/NICO/BUGGY: [ad-lib yelps]

NARRATOR: Joule slips into Buggy ...

JOULE/BUGGY: OOF!

NARRATOR: ... Buggy drops the radio ...

[SFX: PLOP!]

NARRATOR: Nico lunges for to save it ... and loses the oars.

NICO: No!

NARRATOR: And then the dinghy spins, waves crash over the gunwale, and Joule, wiping the salt from her eyes, glances up ...

[SFX: Turbine blades creaking]

NARRATOR: ... where a half-broken turbine blade dangles like a sword on a string. The wind gusts and ...

[SFX: SNAP! Wire breaks]

JOULE: LOOK OUT!!!

NICO: JUMP!

[MUX]

NARRATOR: Dead end. Cape Cod Bay was *not* the place. But have no fear. We can just rewind ...

[SFX: REWIND]

NARRATOR: ... and try again. So, *where is Sky Island?* Remember the clues: *Twelve forty-four, "NORTH Carolina." One o' eight, "WEST Antarctic Ice Sheet."* A hint? Think: coordinates.

Chapter 20, "Nakambe River."

Chapter 21, "Gulf of Maine."

Choose wisely. This is *The Midnight Rebellion*.

[CODA]

NARRATOR: In this chapter, our heroes find an abandoned offshore wind farm. But why would it be abandoned?

Some people say that wind power is dangerous – that it harms wildlife, won't save the planet, and we should give it up. The truth is, *everything* humans build impacts the Earth and can threaten plants and animals. But fossil fuels pose a far greater threat to the planet and its creatures. Wind power makes clean energy and slows climate change.

No solution is perfect. Do your part by learning more about energy and advocating for the choices you believe are best.

And keep listening for more tips and more radio messages. Up next: *Chapter 20, "Nakambe River"* or *Chapter 21, "Gulf of Maine."*

[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 David Tatsciore.

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.

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.

[MIDROLL]

[POST-MIDROLL]

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 20, Nakambe River or Chapter 21, Gulf of Maine. That's Chapter 20, or Chapter 21.

[MUX]

NARRATOR: I'm serious. This is the end of this chapter. No more story here, I promise. You should continue to, Chapter 20, Nakambe River or Chapter 21, Gulf of Maine.

[MUX]

NARRATOR: Are you still listening? You should continue to, Chapter 20, Nakambe River or Chapter 21, Gulf of Maine.

[MUX]

NARRATOR: Okay. I tried to warn you. Enjoy the music. I guess I'll see you in the next chapter. That's Chapter 20, or Chapter 21.

[MUX]

NARRATOR: This is the Midnight Rebellion.