

WBUR's  
**THE MIDNIGHT REBELLION**  
**CHAPTER 20 - NAKAMBE RIVER**  
By Dean Russell

[MUX]

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

Chapter 20, "Nakambe River"

[MUX]

**EXT. FLYING, BURKINA FASO DESERT - DAY**

[SFX: Wind]

**NARRATOR:** A month has passed since their escape from Fenway Park. And in that time, Joule, Buggy, and Nico have crossed an ocean into a new continent. Africa.

**JOULE:** We're getting close.

**BUGGY:** Thank the tides. I've gotta go, and it is not number one.

**NARRATOR:** How have they made it this far? That is a very good question. Allow me to backtrack a little ...

[SFX: REWIND]

**FLASHBACK MONTAGE**

[SFX: Walking through tunnel]

**NARRATOR:** As Bright attacked the rebel fortress, Joule reluctantly did as Cutthroat asked and went with the others into the secret passage out of the stadium. They surfaced in an old city park, where Nico ...

**NICO:** Ow!

**NARRATOR:** ... stubbed their toe.

**NICO:** What is that?

**BUGGY:** That ... is an airship. *Cool.*

**NARRATOR:** It turns out the rebels had hidden a small blimp.

**BUGGY:** Can we take it? PLEASE! I can fly. I know I can.

**NICO:** No. No way. No how.

**NARRATOR:** But then they cracked the radio messages ...

**JOULE:** They're coordinates: 12:44 North Carolina, means 12.44°N. That makes the other one 1.8°W. (beat) Does anyone have a map?

**NARRATOR:** They would need a *world* map. And faced with the choice of paddling across the Atlantic or flying, they ... took the blimp.

[SFX: Bumpy flying]

**JOULE/BUGGY/NICO:** [ad-lib frightened yells]

**NARRATOR:** ... took the blimp.

**JOULE:** PULL UP! PULL UP!

**NARRATOR:** ... Which brings us back to ...

[SFX: FAST FORWARD]

**EXT. FLYING, BURKINA FASO DESERT - DAY**

[SFX: Flying]

**JOULE:** 12.44°N, 1.8°W ... the Nakambe River.

**NARRATOR:** As it happens, Joule had once met a boy at camp who was from this part of the world: Burkina Faso, it was called. The boy told stories of lions and elephants in his lilting accent. It sounded so wonderful, she couldn't imagine why his family had moved. And now, she was excited to see it.

**BUGGY:** Here we go. I'm bringing us down.

**NARRATOR:** But as they descend from the cool, high-altitude breeze, Joule remembers something else her friend told her.

**JOULE:** Wow. It's hot down here. Like *really* hot.

**NARRATOR:** They have already been through a lot. You don't cross an ocean in a tiny airship without going hungry, thirsty, and developing sun blisters. But at least they had the wind.

Now, Joule steps out of the gondola and into a landscape composed not of trees and kingly creatures, but shadeless sand.

**EXT. BURKINA FASO DESERT - CONT'D**

**[SFX: Footsteps on hard sand]**

**JOULE:** [exhausted breath] I've never felt heat like this before.

**BUGGY:** (tired) I'm sweating from my eyeballs. Is that a thing?

**NARRATOR:** They walk and walk and walk. At one point, they reach a dead tree. Nico and Buggy rest in its paltry shade, but Joule keeps going.

**JOULE:** (tired) The river's just over that hill. I know it.

**NARRATOR:** Her head aches and her stomach feels funny. She plods on, though, and when she crests the ridge ...

**JOULE:** [gasps] I can't believe it. (getting excited) We did it. We're here! Buggy! Nico! We're here!

**NARRATOR:** The city is green and alive. Waterfalls spill from skyscrapers into the blue river. Joule runs. She splashes ...

**[SFX: Running into water]**

**JOULE:** [ad-lib laughter, joy]

**NARRATOR:** She scoops water from the cool river, tossing it into the air. ...

**[SFX: Throwing water in the air]**

**NARRATOR:** ... She opens her mouth to drink. And as it falls ...

**[SFX: SAND FALLING]**

**NARRATOR:** ... the water turns to sand.

**JOULE:** [coughs, spits] (delusional) What happened? Where'd it go?

**BUGGY:** (approaching) Joule?

**JOULE:** (delusional) It was right here. Sky Island was right here on the river. *Where is it?*

**NICO:** Joule, the river's dried up. This isn't Sky Island. This isn't anything at all.

**[MUX]**

**NARRATOR:** Dead end. So sorry. But have no fear. Rewind ...

**[SFX: REWIND]**

**NARRATOR:** ... and try again. So, *where is Sky Island?* Remember the clues: *Twelve fourty-four, "North Carolina." One o' eight, "West Antarctic Ice Sheet."* A hint? How many minutes past twelve o'clock is each time? Now, think of coordinates, and select ...

Chapter 19, "Cape Cod Bay."

Chapter 21, "Gulf of Maine."

Choose wisely. This is *The Midnight Rebellion*.

**[CODA]**

**NARRATOR:** Some countries, like Burkina Faso, didn't cause the climate crisis. They make very little pollution. But they face some of the hardest impacts, like extreme heat and drought.

That's where equity comes in. Equity means being fair. It means the places that caused the most carbon pollution, like the United States, should help the places that are hurting the most.

Wherever you're from, learn how the climate will affect different counties, and advocate for the people that need more help. Do your part. The climate connects everyone.

And keep listening for more tips and more bathroom breaks. Up next: *Chapter 19, "Cape Cod Bay" 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 Fred Greenhalgh.

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](http://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 19, Cape Cod Bay or Chapter 21, Gulf of Maine. That's Chapter 19, 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 19, Cape Cod Bay, or Chapter 21, Gulf of Maine.

**[MUX]**

**NARRATOR:** Are you still listening? You should continue to, Chapter 19, Cape Cod Bay, 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 19, or Chapter 21.

**[MUX]**

**NARRATOR:** This is the Midnight Rebellion.